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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk March 10, 2013 MID KENT EDITION Issue no 546

Top tourist attraction is latest victim of economic hard times

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

ONE of the county's top tourist attractions has become the latest casualty of the economic squeeze with the company behind the Hop Farm announcing its imminent demise.

Bad weather and a drop in visitor numbers, combined with cancelled events, are being blamed, with Hop Farm Trading Ltd admitting it had been a difficult year.

In addition, it was dealt a blow by the loss of events such as the War and Peace Show, which will now be held in Folkestone.

The venue, in Paddock Wood, boasts one of the world's largest collections of Victorian oast houses and its history spans five centuries, first as a working farm and now as host to a number of popular attractions and events.

A spokesman for the trading firm said any bookings for weddings and other functions would still go ahead.

He said: "Nothing in life is 100 per cent, but we want to assure all our bookings that the functions will be honoured.

"There are a host of contributing factors to the problems we've experienced: the weather, the economic climate, events moved or cancelled.

"War and Peace was affected by the weather which did affect sales.

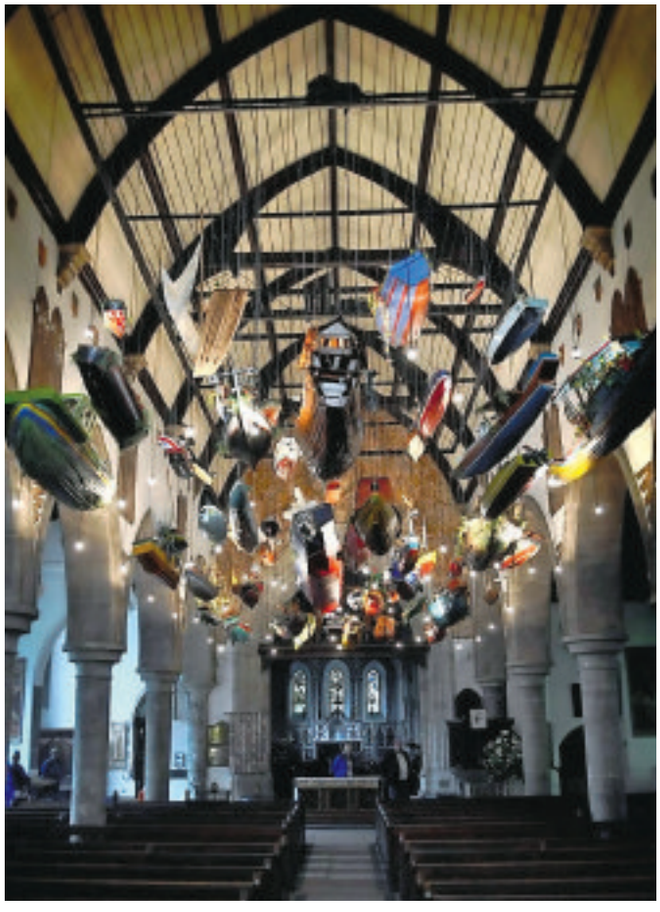
"We are no different from any other business in these difficult times, but are confident there will be a positive outcome for the attraction."

He refused to comment on possible job losses or the number of staff potentially affected.

Hop Farm Trading Ltd, which is being placed into liquidation, operates some but not all of the attractions at the park.

It is not believed the liquidation will

Continued on page 2



REGION'S CULTURE CLUB FOR 'CITY' BID

HOPE: East Kent united in attempt to win 2017 UK City of Culture – **SEE INSIDE**

TRANSPORT

Woman gives birth on train

COMMUTERS got a little more than they bargained for on Thursday night after a passenger gave birth on a busy rush-hour train.

The 22-year-old mother gave birth at West Malling after boarding the London to Ashford service. Full amazing story inside. **PAGE 7**

CELEBRATE

Don't forget Mother's Day

TOURIST venues will be expecting bumper crowds today as families celebrate Mother's Day.

But for many people, the day will be a poignant reminder of those they have lost. Inside, one women uses the day to encourage others to join in the Race for Life. **PAGE 8**

ELECTIONS

Call for women to fight seats

IN HER latest exclusive column for Kent on Sunday, Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes has called for more women to contest seats at this year's local elections.

Responding to a recent survey, she says it is essential women are better represented in positions of power. **PAGE 17**

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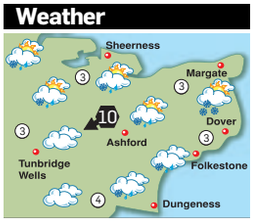

TODAY: Overcast with rain, turning to sleet then snow. Light winds. Max temp 1-4C (34-39F). **TONIGHT:** Clear spells and snow showers. Min temp -3 to 0C (27-32F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	10.05	6.4	22.21	6.6
Margate	11.09	4.6	23.16	4.7
St Mary's	03.30	5.5	15.55	5.5

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 1C	Min -5C
Tuesday	Max 4C	Min -3C
Wednesday	Max 7C	Min -3C
Thursday	Max 6C	Min -2C
Friday	Max 6C	Min 0C
Saturday	Max 7C	Min 0C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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Published in Kent by Archant Community Media Ltd (Co Reg No 19300), Registered Office: Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE and printed by St Clements Press (1988) Ltd (Co Reg No 2174119), Unit 3, International Business Park, Rick Roberts Way, Stratford, London, E15 2NF

AVIATION

Prominent Tory MP joins campaigners against estuary airport with launch of online petition

By Marijke Cox
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THE fight against a multi-million pound Thames Estuary airport has increased with the launch of a major petition aimed at persuading the Government-appointed, independent, Davies Commission to rule out any such proposals as it examines airport capacity in the south east.

Rochester and Strood MP Mark Reckless has joined forces with campaigners to garner public opinion and get the message out that the environmentally-important estuary is the wrong place for an airport.

Last month, we exclusively revealed that Boris Johnson's aide, Daniel Moylan, had been meeting with Kent MPs in a bid to get them to support the London mayor's hopes for an estuary transport hub.

As a high-profile campaigner in the fight, Mr Reckless had one-to-one talks with Mr Johnson to discuss the controversial topic.

Now, the Medway parliamentarian is visiting households across the Hoo Peninsula asking residents to sign a petition against the airport.

Anyone from across Kent can sign the petition, however.

Results will be submitted to the Davies Commission.

Mr Reckless said: "Various people have suggested building an airport in the Thames Estuary area.

"The Mayor of London initially proposed an artificial 'Boris Island' north of Sheppey, while architects Foster and Partners have proposed building over the north-east of the Hoo Peninsula and reclaimed land beyond.

"None of these proposals appear credible to me. Cost estimates range from £70 billion to more than £100bn.

"It is not clear why anyone would want to pay for this, when it would be much cheaper to expand existing airports.

"Does the Mayor of London want to close Heathrow and move its 75,000 directly employed staff and 40,000 ancillary staff to Medway?

"Or keep it open, with British Airways and other airlines saying that they would then refuse to move? Even Boris has now said that his desired new hub airport could instead be at Stansted.

SUPPORT: Mark Reckless

"If £5bn were spent on a Crossrail spur from Stansted to Stratford this would link Stansted to the City in 25 minutes, the West End or Ebbsfleet in 35 minutes and Heathrow in less than an hour. Gatwick are also now pushing to have a second runway."

Campaigners from Friends of the North Kent Marshes have thrown their weight behind the petition and are urging people to sign.

Joan Darwell, from the group, said: "We've joined forces with Mark to get the message across. We would ask everyone to respond. This affects people further than just the peninsula.

"We just want everyone to get behind this so Mark can go forward and present this to the Davies Commission and show the number of people against a Thames Estuary airport."

■ **Sign the petition at http://markreckless.com/petition/**

Efforts now begin to find new buyer to run Hop Farm site

Continued from front page

impact these. Land and buildings are also owned by another company.

Insolvency firm White Maund LLP confirmed it had been instructed to place Hop Farm Trading Ltd into liquidation. A meeting will take place with shareholders and creditors on March 15, and the company will cease trading in the near future.

Partner Tom D'Arcy said: "The company has sustained significant losses in the recent past, principally as a consequence of the recession which has led to decreasing numbers of visitors and a reduction in the average amount spent by each visitor."

He said that financial support previously available through several funding streams, including an investor and bank loans, was no longer possible due to the continuing losses generated.

It is understood around 96 per cent of the debt owed by the company is to an investor – believed to be London-based Bluebird Partners – but the amount is currently not being released.

This newspaper contacted the firm several times, but they did not respond.

Mr D'Arcy added: "Efforts are being made to identify a purchaser of the business and assets of Hop Farm Trading Ltd, however it is too early to comment as to the likely realisations in the liquidation or the outcome for the company's creditors."

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive of Visit Kent, said it was always sad to hear a tourism business was experiencing difficulties.

She said: "The Hop Farm, as a long-standing attraction and as a major events venue, plays an important role in the visitor economy of the county.

"I do hope their current problems can be resolved and that the venue can move forward positively."

Chief executive of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Julie Beilby, said: "The Hop Farm has proved to be a very popular tourist attraction and events venue for many thousands of visitors over the years.

"I am sorry to hear of its current difficulties and await further updates."

The attraction was previously owned by Simon Hume-Kendall, who now runs Bewl Water, in Lamberhurst.

He said: "I owned the Hop Farm until 2007, and brought in the concerts.

"Since then it is my understanding that large-scale events such as the War and Peace Show and the concerts have gradually dried up."

FESTIVAL PAYMENTS STRUCK WRONG CHORD

IRONICALLY, just last week we revealed the full extent of the losses experienced by the organisers of the Hop Farm Festival – the three-day music event hosted at the site.

Run by an outside company, which hires the venue, it ran into huge financial problems last year after disappointing ticket sales, a squeeze on spending and bad weather. The firm which ran it, Music Festivals plc run by promoter Vince Power, went into adminstration and its subsidiary, Kent Festival Ltd, into liquidation.

We revealed a number of the major acts were still owed money and that large sums were still due to the likes of Kent Police.

Ultimately, Kent taxpayers will pick up the bill for the £22,000-plus it is still owed, a figure blasted by Ann Barnes, the county's Police and Crime Commissioner, who said failure to pay was letting down "not just the force, but the people of Kent".

This week Mr Power, who started a new company just days after Music Festivals plc collapsed, continued to insist the festival will return for 2013, and that an announcement of headline acts was imminent.

Liquidators of Kent Festival Ltd have informally advised many creditors they should not expect to be paid.

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CEREMONY

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- **Dining Pub of the Year** The George Inn, Molash
- **Butcher or Meat Retailer** Godmersham Game, Canterbury
- **Best Kentish Beer** Gadds No.3, Ramsgate Brewery
- **Best Kentish Wine** Ortega 2011, Biddenden Vineyards
- **Best Cider or Perry** Duddas Tun – Pine Trees Farm, Doddington
- **Best Juice Producer** Little Stour Orchard, Margate
- **Local Food Retailer** Quex Barn, Birchington
- **Fishmonger of the Year** Sankey's, Tunbridge Wells
- **Artisan Food Producer** The Cheesemakers of Canterbury, Dargate
- **Farmer's Market of the Year** Elm Court, Hempstead, Gillingham
- **Food, Farming & Landscape Award** Winterdale Cheesemakers, Wrotham
- **Food Product of the Year** Bowyer's Brie, The Cheesemakers of Canterbury, Dargate
- **Food Product of the Year categories** **Dairy** Bowyer's Brie, The Cheesemakers of Canterbury; **Bakers and confectionery** Sloe Gin Chocolates, Sloe Seduction, Tonbridge; **Prepared food** Quail Egg Pie, Dine Thyme, Maidstone; **Catering** Free range dry cured gammon, Roundwood Orchard Pig, Meopham; **Ambient** Rose Jelly, Kent Fine Foods, Hempstead

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

THE cream of the county's food and drink producers were rewarded for their efforts on Friday night when they gathered for the annual Taste of Kent Awards presentation evening.

And for 10 businesses it was celebration time after taking home a top prize for the first time.

Big winners included The Ambrette in Margate, which was named Kent Restaurant of the Year, and The Cheesemakers of Canterbury, based in Dargate, which followed up previous success by winning three awards, among them Best Kent Food Product, for its Bowyer's Brie.

The Ambrette, led by Dev Biswal, won over the judges with its "well balanced menu, use of local seasonal ingredients, ambience and contemporary marriage of Indian and English food".

Owner of The Cheesemakers of Canterbury, Jane Bowyer, who set up the business in May 2007, was delighted by her triple win, with judges "very impressed with the business and its Kent credentials – making it a clear winner".

The awards took place at the Mercure Great Danes Hotel in Hollingbourne, near Maidstone.

Edwyn Martin, manager at Produced in Kent, the organisation behind the Taste of Kent Awards which champions local food and drink producers, said: "The awards became even more remarkable with the influx of new winners as well as some real champions of Kent's food and drink scene coming up trumps for the third or fourth consecutive year. If ever there has been a time that consumers want and need to know their food and drink comes from a trusted and local source it is now."

The George Inn at Molash was named Kent Dining Pub of the Year. Judges said the owners had "worked tirelessly to put this pub on the map... providing a lovely atmosphere with good local ingredients on the menu".

ALL SMILES: Dev Biswal, executive chef at The Ambrette in Margate, who won best restaurant

NEWS IN BRIEF

Farage meets Murdoch

UKIP leader Nigel Farage has talked politics over dinner with controversial media tycoon Rupert Murdoch.

It was speculated that Mr Farage put forward the idea that he would form an electoral pact with the Tories if David Cameron stood down.

But Mr Farage, from Westerham, was keeping tight-lipped. He told KoS on Friday: "I was asked to have dinner with Mr Murdoch and of course I said yes. He's a fascinating man."

Festival headliners

ORGANISERS of this year's Lounge on the Farm music festival have unveiled the first acts for this summer's event.

Among those confirmed are Soul II Soul, Seasick Steve, Aswad and Dub Pistols.

The hugely popular event takes place each year at Merton Farm in Canterbury.

This year's event takes place over the weekend of July 26-28.

Tickets cost £100 and are available now.

Unclaimed £3m prize

A £3 MILLION National Lottery jackpot remains unclaimed - more than three weeks after the numbers came up.

The ticket was bought somewhere in the Sevenoaks district for the Lotto draw on February 9. It matched all six numbers and is now worth £3,094,304.

The winning numbers were 8, 10, 27, 34, 40 and 41. No-one has yet come forward.

To claim the prize, the ticket holder has until August 8. After that date the money will go to charity.

THEATRE

Musical superfan books tickets to see same show 28 times this year

BY DAY, Tracy Warne works front of house at one of the county's leading theatres.

But by night she transforms into a musical superfan, who by the end of the year will have travelled more than 11,000 miles to watch her favourite show more than 50 times in theatres around the world.

The 48-year-old from Tunbridge Wells, who works at the town's Assembly Hall Theatre, has become obsessed with the musical Priscilla Queen of the Desert after first watching it with her sister in London in 2009.

Since then, she's seen it 27 times – including performances in New York, Milan and Manchester – and has tickets for a further 28 shows as it tours the UK this year.

Her fanaticism will be boosted when she catches all performances of the show when it comes to her theatre for a string of shows between May 6-11.

The super-fan explains: "Priscilla is a fantastic, funny, glitzy, glam show full of great dance music from the eighties. It's contagious.

SHOWTIME: Priscilla proves a popular fix

"I'm addicted to it. I've been lucky enough to meet the touring cast and they were all great.

"I think they were surprised I travelled so far to watch the show, but they were all very kind."

Based on the movie, the musical charts the adventures of three friends – two drag queens and a transexual – seeking love and friendship on an old bus.

The 1994 film starred the likes of Hugo Weaving, Guy Pearce and Terence Stamp.

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ARTS

East Kent unites in ambitious bid to be 2017 'City of Culture'

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

COUNCIL chiefs insist they are "in it to win it" after it was confirmed east Kent was to put in a bid to become the UK City of Culture for 2017.

The ambitious bid will see Canterbury, Ashford, Dover, Folkestone and Thanet combine forces to go head-to-head with a number of rival bids to win the prestigious title.

Should it prove successful, it is hoped it would deliver a host of significant benefits, including increased investment, the staging of some major national events and a blaze of publicity.

A full programme of events to support the bid is now being drawn up which will form part of the formal bid to be submitted on April 30.

The bids will then be considered by an independent advisory panel who will announce a shortlist in June. Rival bids are expected from Aberdeen, Chester, Dundee, Hastings and Bexhill, Hull, Leicester, Plymouth, Portsmouth and Southampton, Southend and Swansea.

Existing funds allocated to arts and culture by local authorities, groups and organisations will be used to fund the bid as events are tailored to fit in alongside the overall application.

Organisers say that as the bid gains momentum inward investment from backers will be forthcoming, further boosting the region's prospects.

Chris Hespe is head of the culture and sport group at Kent County Council.

He said: "We are in it to win it. There has been a massive investment in venues in east Kent.

"Turner Contemporary is a world renowned venue, but east Kent's arts and culture is a well-kept secret. We want to lift the lid on this and so bring in tourism and resources and funds for regeneration.

"The bid sits perfectly alongside projects such as the Folkestone Triennial and the Grow For It campaign, aimed at regenerating the area through funding from government.

"Everyone – local authorities, KCC and arts and cultural groups – is behind the bid and we want to involve as many people as possible. The bidding process itself is a great way of raising the area's profile, both nationally and internationally."

Announcing the list of contenders, culture minister Ed Vaizey praised the combined east Kent bid as "innovative" and said the fact it covered a region would not prove a drawback.

He said: "The competition brings together communities and creates economic and social benefits. I am pleased to see so many local authorities and different partners coming together."

Among the events the winning region could host, should it prove a success, would be the likes of art's Turner Prize, literature's Man Booker Prize and music extravaganza the Brit Awards.

Alastair Upton, of Folkestone arts-led regeneration body the Creative Foundation, said: "The bid will build upon the significant national and international reputation that has been achieved in east Kent over the past few years."

Bids will be considered by an independent panel, chaired by Phil Redmond, the creator of popular TV series including Grange Hill, Brookside and Hollyoaks, who chaired Liverpool's period as European Capital of Culture in 2008.

Mr Redmond said: "The UK City of Culture can be a real catalyst for change and I'm delighted so many places have registered their interest."

FITS THE BILL: Margate's Turner Contemporary

TAKING ON CAPITAL IDEA

THE UK City of Culture awards came into being after Liverpool's reign as European Capital of Culture in 2008, which attracted 9.7 million visitors to the city and generated £753.8 million for the local economy – £200m up on its previous yearly figure.

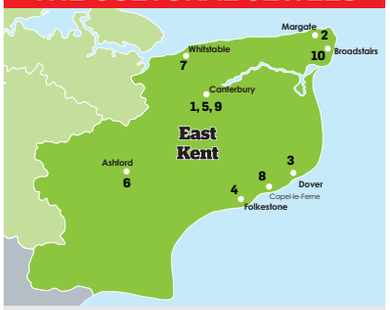
Highlights included Sir Paul McCartney's 40,000-strong concert at Anfield, the Gustav Klimt exhibition at Tate Liverpool and the hosting of the Turner Prize competition.

From 2011, two countries have been nominated each year. In 2013, the designated cities being Kosice in Slovakia and Marseille in France.

As the UK cannot be part of the project again until at least 2020, when the next countries are finalised, in 2009 it was decided to set up a similar event for the UK, with a city to be chosen every four years.

This year Derry-Londonderry – jointly named to appeal to both Nationalists, who call the city Derry, and Unionists, who prefer the London prefix – was selected ahead of Birmingham, Norwich and Sheffield.

THE CULTURAL JEWELS



1 Canterbury Cathedral/World Heritage site
2 Turner Contemporary
3 Dover Castle and White Cliffs
4 Folkestone Triennial Arts Festival
5 Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury
6 Ashford's rich railway heritage
7 Whitstable Oyster Festival
8 Battle of Britain Memorial, Capel-le-Ferne
9 Lounge on the Farm music festival
10 Charles Dickens' ties with Broadstairs

TRIBUNAL

Apprentice star's bitter court battle

WINNER of the 2010 edition of hit BBC TV show The Apprentice, Stella English, has spent the week locked in an increasingly bitter court feud with former boss Lord Sugar.

Ms English, who was told 'you're hired' in the popular show, is claiming constructive dismissal after losing her job with Lord Sugar's IT firm Viglen.

She had secured a £100,000 post by winning the TV show, but claimed she was nothing more than an "overpaid lackey".

Lord Sugar says the 34-year-old, who lives in Whitstable, is only pursuing the action in a bid for a sizeable pay off. The tribunal is set to continue next week.

ROADS

Two dead in taxi crash

TAXI driver Brian Maitland, 63, and his female passenger, 47, were killed following a three-car smash near Staplehurst on Tuesday night.

Both were from Maidstone. An 18-year-old girl in the back of the taxi was rushed by air ambulance for treatment at a London hospital.

Drivers of the other two vehicles both received minor injuries.

The crash took place on the Cranbrook Road at Knoxbridge at around 7.30pm.

POLITICS

Green leader hits town

NATALIE Bennett, leader of the Green Party, will be in Tonbridge next week to discuss a host of improvement options open to local communities – among them pedetrianised town centes, a subject much debated in the town.

The politican will be delivering the address on Tuesday, March 12, at the Forsyth Hall in Bradford Street at 7.30pm.

The meeting is open to anyone. She will spend the day meeting local party members.

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EMERGENCY

Baby arrives early as mother gives birth on packed rush-hour train

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

WHEN commuters boarded the 6.18pm service from London Victoria to Ashford International on Thursday night, they settled down with books and newspapers for what they expected to be an uneventful journey home.

What they wouldn't have been expecting, however, was that halfway through that journey, one of their fellow passengers would go into labour, and minutes later give birth.

But when Sonia Banks, 22, boarded the service at Borough Green, heavily pregnant, and joined by her partner, Allan Stanley, 21, and his mother, Mari-Anne Stanley, things were about to take a dramatic turn.

Explains Ms Stanley: "I still can't take it in. She went into labour at 7.15pm and Phoebe was born at 7.30pm."

Remarkably, unlike many rail services, baby Phoebe arrived early – a week ahead of Miss Banks' due date. The birth took place as the train stopped at West Malling.

Delighted father Mr Stanley, added; "It feels like I'm on Cloud Nine. It's mad. Everything's fine and mother and baby are doing well."

Baby Phoebe weighed in at a healthy 6lb 13oz and was taken to hospital in Tunbridge Wells on Thursday night for routine checks.

SPECIAL DELIVERY: Baby Phoebe was born on a Thursday evening train from London Victoria

Commuters were alerted to the medical emergency after the train's guard made an announcement over the tannoy calling for a doctor or nurse to help. Fortunately, an off-duty midwife was travelling on board and able to assist.

Mari-Anne Stanley told a national newspaper: "When we were taken off to go to the ambulance there were people on the platform who gave us a rapturous round of applause and cheered. Passengers were lining the platform.

"It was a fantastic reception. The guard and the driver were extremely helpful. The driver was making announcements, keeping the passengers updated.

"The guard called the ambulance and was extremely helpful, and there was an off-duty nurse, off-duty midwife and an off-duty police officer on board the train, thank God."

Ms Stanley said it was a "pain-free labour" which lasted 15 minutes, and has resulted in a second child for the mother. She also praised the reaction of other passengers, saying they moved away as soon as they realised what was taking place.

She said: "They were asked to leave the carriage to give us a bit of dignity, and everyone either left or got on another carriage.

"We're all still in shock."

Conductor Colin Brooker said: "We had everyone we needed right there on the train. We were only missing a vicar to baptise the baby.

"I kept all the passengers onboard informed about the delay and there was a big cheer when we announced the baby was born.

"In all my 41 years working on the railway I've never experienced anything like this.

"It was amazing."

The train was delayed by about 45 minutes.

MEDICAL

Fake nurse sentenced

A BOGUS nurse who worked unqualified at four surgeries in Medway has been spared jail.

Denice Stewart, 47, formerly of Great Lines, Gillingham, duped work colleagues into believing she was a genuine practice nurse and forged qualification documents. She pleaded guilty to fraud and sentenced to 20 months imprisonment, suspended for two years.

ACCIDENT

Girl stuck under bus

A SCHOOL girl is recovering this weekend after she was hit by a car and thrown into the path of a bus on a busy road in Gravesend on Wednesday.

Emergency crews had to use air bags to release Jade Phillips, 12, after she became trapped under the bus on the Rochester Road. She is in a serious but not life-threatening condition.

CRIME

Teen gets 13 months

A TEENAGER has been sentenced to 13 months in a young offenders institute after pleading guilty to handling stolen goods after a burglary on Sheppey.

Jordan Stone, 19, of Elm Road, Gillingham, was sentenced following a burglary in Queenborough. He received a further four months for activating a previous suspended sentence.

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CHARITY

Mother's Day should motivate women to join Race for Life, says grieving daughter

MEMORIES: Elaine ran last year's Race for Life just weeks after her mother Pat lost her fight against breast cancer

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A DAUGHTER who lost her mother to cancer last year is calling on other women to show their love this Mother's Day by signing up for Race for Life.

Elaine Keiller, a businesses services officer, said for many women whose mothers have passed away, this Sunday will be a poignant reminder of their loss.

For others, it will highlight how special their mothers are.

The 43-year-old, from Weavering in Maidstone, took part in last year's Race for Life, just two weeks after her mother, Pat Sturrock, died of breast cancer.

"I was heartbroken," she said.

"My emotions were so raw, but at the same time I knew Mum was looking down on me, spurring me along and that's what got me round the course. It was one of the most poignant days of my life.

"I want to encourage other women to sign-up.

"Some will be motivated to do so in memory of their mothers, like me. Others will have the opportunity to take part alongside their mums as a wonderful way of spending time together in a defiant gesture to cancer."

A mum-of-two herself, Mrs Keiller described the moment her mother, who was 70 when she died, was diagnosed with cancer.

"Mum had found a lump under her left armpit. I was with her at the hospital when she got the results. We were both shell-shocked," she said.

"But she was absolutely determined to fight it. She endured a mastectomy and chemotherapy and for two years she was clear, but in 2010, she found a lump in her neck and was told the cancer had returned and gone to her bones.

"Even then she battled on and had further treatment including a chemotherapy trial drug.

"She was willing to try everything because her one dream in life was to live long enough to see her granddaughters' get married and have kids of their own."

But in June 2012, she sadly lost her battle.

■ **To enter Race for Life go to www.race-forlife.org or call 0845 600 6050.**

RACES FOR LIFE

5km races:

- **Gillingham** Capstone Road, May 19, 11am
- **Rochester** Rochester Castle, May 19, 11.30am
- **Royal Tunbridge Wells** Dunorlan Park, June 9, 11am
- **Folkestone** The Leas, June 16, 11am
- **Herne Bay** Herne Bay Seafront, June 30, 11am
- **Maidstone** Mote Park, July 7, 11.30am
- **Margate** Palm Bay, July 21, 11am

10km race:

- **Maidstone** Mote Park, July 7, 9am

BUSY DAYS OUT

BUMPER crowds are expected at the county's tourist attractions this weekend for Mother's Day.

Some attractions are likely to experience their busiest weekends of the year so far – despite forecasters warning of a chill in the air.

Leeds Castle, said the venue's afternoon tea was proving a big draw while Port Lympne Wild Animal Park is opening its mansion and gardens that are normally closed to the public.

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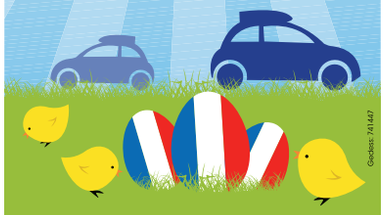

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CRIME

Illegal cigarettes reach 'epidemic proportions' as crime and health risks highlighted

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MORE than half of cigarettes smoked in Gillingham have not been taxed – more than double the national average and putting the town top of the table in a list of the country's illegal tobacco hotspots.

It has prompted local MP Rehman Chishti to demand urgent action to tackle the flood of smuggled or counterfeit cigarettes on the market.

He wants national government to take steps to crack down on the problem – and called on the local council to step up its fight too.

He said: "Illegal tobacco has an impact on people's health, hits the local economy and can have links to criminal gangs. These latest figures are concerning given the impact illegal tobacco has. It also makes it easier for young people to access cigarettes illegally and start smoking.

"I am seeking assurances that the council is taking appropriate action to address this issue. Illegal tobacco also harms local businesses, especially newsagents, and costs the UK economy around £2 billion every year."

The research comes from Swiss company MS Intelligence, which monitored the number of tossed away empty packets which were then examined for authenticity.

The government said it is aware of the problem and takes it so seriously a parliamentary committee is preparing to begin an inquiry into the illicit tobacco trade for the first time.

Will O'Reilly, former Scotland Yard detective chief inspector who has conducted research on behalf of tobacco giant Philip Morris since November 2011, said the illicit tobacco trade had reached "epidemic proportions" in parts of the UK.

Mike O'Brien, portfolio holder for community safety and customer contact at Medway Council, said: "Although trading standards officers enforce safety legislation for the marking of cigarette packets, the primary responsibility for enforcement of failure to pay duty lies with HMRC. With that in mind, though, we welcome any information that illustrates the level and nature of tobacco use within the area.

"In the study, Gillingham, Worthing and Poole were the three towns with the highest amount of illicit tobacco discovered.

"Without access to the data behind the report, it is hard to comment, but all three areas are in reasonable proximity to Channel ports. This may well be a factor for those towns and the south east."

TOP ILLEGAL TOBACCO TOWNS

Percentage of smuggled/counterfeit cigarettes

Gillingham, Kent	Poole, Dorset	Worthing, West Sussex
54.5	50.83	49.24

Stats: MS Intelligence

IN FIGURES

£12.1bn tax revenue from tobacco for 2011/12 for the UK

£2.2bn annual cost to the UK taxpayer of smuggled tobacco

33% cigarettes in the south east sold with no tax paid

26% national average of non-taxed cigarettes

Stats: Tobacco Manufacturers' Association/MS Intelligence

■ Want help quitting? See www.smokefree.nhs.uk – the NHS site designed help

TECHNOLOGY

£1.5 billion reason why upgrade to broadband speeds is welcome here

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

WIDESPREAD superfast broadband could spark a massive £1.5 billion boom in the county's economy.

That's the prediction by County Hall chiefs, who are preparing a digital action plan to ensure Kent and Medway makes the most of its Broadband Delivery UK Project (BDUK), which aims to transform broadband infrastructure.

The £43 million scheme – funded by £10m from Kent County Council, £9.87m from central Government and the remainder from a network operator – intends to deliver superfast services to 90 per cent of the county's population by 2015. This speed, a minimum of 20Mbps, enables a film, for example, to download in around 15 minutes.

The remaining 10 per cent will be able to access 2Mbps – a film download speed of approximately three or four hours.

A report by charity GO ON UK, which works to improve digital ability, argues the economic benefits of greater capability and usage would uplift the national gross domestic product (GDP) by £63bn. In Kent, this would be around £1.5bn. The current GDP for the county is £12-15bn.

GDP is the market value of all goods and services within a country or area.

Business, strategy and support officer at KCC, Liz Harrison, said small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) would see an enhanced turnover and public services, significant savings.

She said: "We are putting in this investment to ensure we can get economic uplift and ensure all individuals and businesses get access to the internet. This is about making sure we seize the opportunities on the horizon.

"There are shocking statistics about the number of people not online and SMEs that do not have a web-based presence.

"The digital action plan will look at how we can encourage innovation on the back of new infrastructure."

Kent and Medway's BDUK project is storming ahead and is in the final stages of the procurement process, with the chosen service provider due to be revealed next month.

This is in contrast to the national drive as a whole, which has faced setbacks caused by issues surrounding state aid approval.

Kent is on track to see the scheme delivered by the 2015 deadline, with the start of the rollout beginning next year.

Some 18,000 businesses and residents who get extremely slow or no broadband have signed up to KCC's Make Kent Quicker campaign which looks to find out the need across the county.

Earlier this year, fibre broadband was installed in areas across the county as part of an upgrade of BT's infrastructure to improve speeds.

WHAT IS BROADBAND DELIVERY UK?

BDUK is a nationwide drive to ensure everyone has access to broadband services by 2015.

The Kent and Medway project seeks to help residents and businesses in hard to reach areas, such as rural communities and internet blackspots.

Upgrade work is taking place to broadband infrastructure to allow for these superfast services.

The scheme is expected to bring everyone up to speed in the digital age.

NATURE

Vandals hit wildlife site

AN IMPORTANT environment site has been targeted by vandals who have destroyed work created by volunteers and school children.

Now an appeal has gone out for the public to help crackdown on the problems at the Milton Creek Country Park in Sittingbourne.

A spokesman said: "This is a mindless act of vandalism which must be stopped."

ROADS

Lorries crash on A20

A DRIVER of a French-registered lorry was seriously injured after two lorries crashed on the A20 at Capel-le-Ferne on Wednesday.

The 55-year-old was in a critical condition after being taken by air ambulance to a London hospital. The other driver, of a Hungarian lorry, 60, was arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving and released on bail.

TRANSPORT

Crackdown at taxi rank

A CRACKDOWN to ensure taxis operating in the centre of Tunbridge Wells are safe and correctly licensed took place recently.

Some 25 cabs were stopped in a joint operation between the local council, Kent Police and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. Four drivers were told to correct defects before being allowed to continue to operate.

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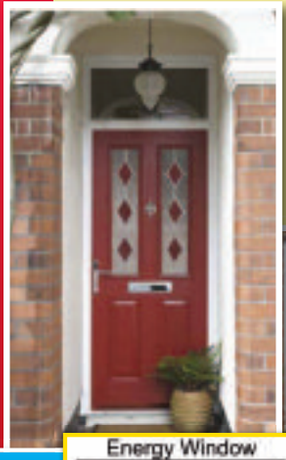

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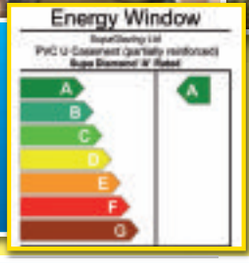

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Green bike scheme to unfold on the platform

COMMUTERS wanting to add two wheels to their daily commute will be able to take advantage of a scheme to rent folding bicycles from railway platforms.

Ashford International, Canterbury West, Maidstone East and Tonbridge are the sites designated for lockers containing 20 bikes which will be available for rent.

The plan is similar to the Boris Bikes scheme in London – with the major difference the bikes can be used for longer and even stored in a car or at home.

Brompton Dock is the company behind the project. It already operates similiar schemes in Manchester, Exeter and Bristol.

Although no date has been confirmed, it is expected to get under way in the summer.

Brompton Dock is in partnership with rail company Southeastern, cycling charity Sustrans, Kent County Council and the Department of Transport, which has put up £124,000 to fund the project.

People wishing to use the scheme must register at www.bromptondock.co.uk and pay an annual membership fee. This is £45 for regular users with a £2.50 daily fee, or £10 for occasional users with a day rate of £5. Members can then keep the bikes for as long as they like.

Once registered, users are given a code which they can text, along with a dock number, to automatically release a bike.

ARMY

Soldiers to fall back from city as barracks closure confirmed

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

HUNDREDS of new homes or a key road to help ease traffic congestion could be built on the site of Canterbury's Howe Barracks, after the Government confirmed this week it was to be sold off.

In the latest review of Britain's military, defence secretary Philip Hammond confirmed troops based in the city, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, are being reduced in number from around 600 to 100 and based in Scotland.

This move was originally outlined last year and will come into force in 2014.

The Headquarters 2nd (South East) Brigade, based at Shorncliffe in Folkestone, will also leave Kent as it is merged with a similiar unit in Aldershot.

This unit, roughly 100 strong, is staffed half by military personnel and half by civilians. The Army says some civilian jobs could be at risk due to the changes.

Canterbury MP Julian Brazier said he was sorry to see the city's link with the military severed.

He added: "There has been a regular army presence in Canterbury since the 19th century and the barracks is a pre-World War One cavalry depot. It's a sad goodbye."

However, Mr Brazier said he understood the logic of gathering army units in large barracks and said it would provide better lives for the troops and their families.

He also said the sell-off could be of benefit to Canterbury, as the land could be used to improve the road network. One possibility is a road linking the A28 and A257 and the land could also be used for development of up to 600 new homes.

Chief executive of Canterbury City Council, Colin Carmichael, added: "Although a large site, a significant proportion of it is protected and we will take that into account in any plans. We will now look at the timescale and consider our approach."

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

BETTER DAYS: The Argylls on parade in Canterbury when they were given the freedom of the city

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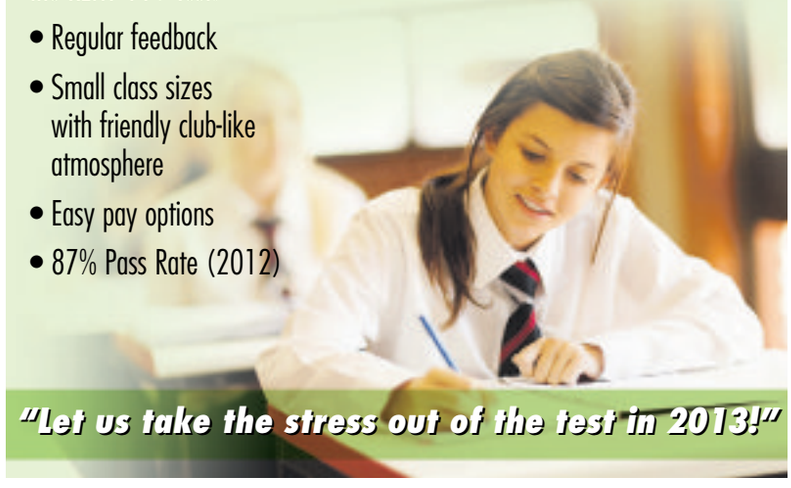

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COMMENT

Britain is being run by men

Kent Police and Crime Commissioner **Ann Barnes** makes an urgent plea for more women to step forward to stand in the upcoming county election in a bid to redress the unequal balance of power between men and women

I'M not sure if you read about a report publicised recently on the lack of women in public life. Well I'm not surprised by the contents of this report when the advancement of women in the senior ranks of politics has gone into reverse.

The report, Sex and Power 2013, is a real eye-opener. It highlights that women only make up 22.5 per cent of MPs, 12.3 per cent of council leaders, 17 per cent of cabinet members, 15.6 per cent of high court judges, 5 per cent of editors of national newspapers and, of course, there are no women bishops.

Apart from a democratic deficit, it's almost criminal to ignore the talent and diverse views that any country and economy so badly needs. Women make up 51 per cent of the population but power is concentrated in the hands of a minority. It's official then – Britain is run by men.

The issue of equality is getting worse, but mercifully, there are lots of very successful women around and we need to celebrate that female success.

The county elections are coming up in May so come on ladies, decide to stand for election. Get out there and do your bit.

It's never too late to put yourself forward for public life, as I am living testament too. Even the media call me Ann Barnes, aged 67. They just can't state my name without mentioning my age.

It's hard for women in the world of policing and I strongly believe that there should be more women on the top floor helping to run the Kent force.

Talking of women playing a leading role, I was over the moon with how my first Meet the Commissioner event went.

This was the first time I have held a public forum that allowed residents and stakeholders to come along and put their questions to me face-to-face. I've always felt this is the most powerful form of communication and there's nothing that will beat this.

I wasn't sure how the night was going to go, or indeed if anyone was actually going to come along. I shouldn't have been worried as around 170 people turned up to take part.

The room was buzzing with questions on rural crime, visibility, plans for a Youth Commissioner and more. Incidentally, we've had 164 applications for the post.

I also had the Deputy Chief Constable, Alan Pughsley, on hand to answer police specific questions. The feedback from the night was excellent. I was really pleased with how it all went and I'll be holding my next event in late April in Faversham.

I hope I might see you there...

Best wishes,
Ann

your Kent Police and Crime Commissioner

■ Do you have an opinion on this? Get involved in the debate and share your comments on our letters' page. Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or write to The Editor, KOS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6SS.

POLICE

Panic-stricken driver rescued at crossing

A MOTORIST with a fear of crossing bridges managed to take a wrong turn and found himself facing a trip over the Dartford bridge on Monday.

The terrified motorist, who did not know the area, suffers from gephyrophobia and was so panic-stricken at the thought of having to drive across the bridge - even though he was on the Kent side and therefore about to use the tunnel - he had to call the police.

The force control room operator explained to the driver he would be passing through the tunnel, not over the bridge, but the motorist confessed he still felt too scared to cross.

The operator stayed on the phone with the worried man to reassure him until a patrol located his car, drove the vehicle through the tunnel, with him as a passenger, and sent him on his way.

Inspector Paul Sellwood, of the Kent Police roads policing unit, said: "This incident shows how seriously we take all calls we receive from members of the public. We always respond and we try to help to the best of our ability.

"Our role is maintaining order and safety on the roads, so if someone is concerned, trapped or scared, it is our job to attend and help and support them wherever we can."

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HISTORY

Lord Kitchener and the secrets surrounding his country house

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

HIS image is synonymous with wartime history and a symbol of World War One – with his face on the famous poster calling for volunteers.

But, some would argue, little is known about Field Marshal Herbert Horatio Kitchener's time in Kent.

The man behind the poster owned a country house in Barham, near Canterbury, a Grade I-listed mansion and grounds, located in Broome Park, from 1911 through to his death in 1916.

Headless statues, secret tunnels and an army of buried tanks are just some of the hidden treasures concealed within the grounds.

But there is a sad twist to the story, as Broome Park's activities co-ordinator Karen Hodgkiss explains: "He never actually got to live in it properly. Having been on tour in Egypt, Lord Kitchener returned to England to command the troops attending the coronation of King George V.

"For some time he had been searching for a house of character, not simply as a dwelling for his retirement, but as a repository for the artefacts collected over his years as a soldier."

Kitchener bought Broome Park for £14,000 and set about renovating it. The lord, known for his campaigns during the Boer War and World War One, put his niece Nora in charge of the restoration while he continued to tour away from home. Much of their detailed correspondence about the restoration still exists.

"He often held events here and had the door made into the shape you see now because sometimes he would need to enter on a horse. That's the kind of chap he was."

Mrs Hodgkiss gives tours of the Broome Park mansion and Italian garden to visitors and guests staying at the house, which is now a hotel.

Kitchener raised the level of the first floor to suit his need for higher ceilings, added two fire places, a stunning staircase and also created a Chinese room for his objects from the Far East.

"He did things a certain way," the guide explains. "For example, there are no drainpipes on the outside of the building, they are all hidden within the brickwork. It looks nicer but of course is a massive headache when there is a leak."

The mansion house itself was first built in 1635 taking four years to complete with more than 270,000 handmade bricks used. It included stables, a brew house and around 5,000 acres of land, which has gradually been reduced to the current 250 accompanying the house.

It was handed down through generations of barons and lords before eventually being sold by Sir Percy Oxenden to Kitchener.

During the five years of his ownership, constant renovation meant Broome Park remained empty: "He never got to live in the house because it wasn't finished. He instead occupied the Steward's building, known as Flint Cottage."

But his influence was obvious. A secret tunnel was built connecting the mansion and a building on the edge of the grounds for quick escape if things went bad during the war. There is also a trap door in another room and plenty of other secretive cubby holes under the building.

The gardens are littered with history, including one of Kitchener's antique statues reportedly worth £88,000. There is also a number of headless statues.

Mrs Hodgkiss added: "That is said to be because Kitchener's men used the heads for target practice when they were here."

During his 40 years of campaigning, Kitchener had been in receipt of considerable sums of money and had amassed "booty" and objects d'art but unfortunately he was never able to admire it in a completed Broome Park.

Despite a number of conspiracy theories, it is reported that on June 5, 1916, Kitchener was travelling on the HMS Hampshire to Russia when the ship struck a mine and sank close to the Orkney Islands, taking him down with it.

The 65-year-old lord never married or had any children and so the incomplete Broome Park passed to his nephew Toby, Viscount Broome, who retained it until its sale in 1928.

Another story from the Broome Park past tells of how after Kitchener's death, his nephew Toby discovered a big bag of gold coins stuffed away in the back of a fireplace, which was used to pay for the completion of the restoration.

And the mystery did not end once the famous lord had passed away.

In the early 1930s Broome Park was bought by Mr G C Jell and transformed into a country house hotel. But World War Two intervened and the estate was requisitioned by the Ministry of Defence. Several regiments were housed there during the war, including the Canadian Tank Regiment and Broome Park is said to have been a strategic target for Nazi planes.

At the end of the conflict it is rumoured that the regiment thought it too expensive to transport their tanks back to Canada and 11 are said to be buried somewhere in the grounds.

Visit www.broomepark.com for more details.

HERITAGE: From left: The mansion at Broome Park; an area of the park's extensive gardens; the door Lord Kitchener had specially adapted to allow him entry to the house while sat atop his horse

THE MAN BEHIND THE POSTER

Best known for an image of his face used on World War One recruitment posters declaring "your country needs you", Field Marshal Horatio Herbert Kitchener was born in 1859.

He went on to win fame for his role in a host of campaigns – most notably in 1898 for winning the Battle of Omdurman and securing control of the Sudan, after which he was given the title Baron Kitchener of Khartoum.

As his career progressed so his title was raised to lord, and eventually earl, but it is as Lord Kitchener that he is most popularly known.

The leader of men also played significant roles in the Second Boer War as chief of staff of the British Army and subsequently became commander-in-chief.

Lord Kitchener was killed in 1916. He remains an iconic character in British military history.

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

Examining the various lives of HMS Chatham

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

SOME 15 Royal Navy warships have cut through the waters of the world proud to bear the name HMS Chatham – with the latest currently among four decommissioned military vessels up for sale.

And while it may hark back to a day when the town which gave the ships its name was globally renowned for its role in producing and maintaining our warships, today the link is more symbolic.

The navy is open to offers for the Type 22 Frigate, with options including it being scrapped and recycled, reused or sunk to become an artificial reef.

The latest HMS Chatham has the rare distinction of a motto in English – "Up and at 'em", a rallying cry associated with Medway football and rugby teams.

And the name itself was originally bestowed to honour the town where so many historic warships were built and based.

Over the centuries the name HMS Chatham has been involved in conflicts ranging from the Napoleonic Wars to the American Civil War and more recent conflicts in Iraq.

The first such ship was captured by the navy during the Second Anglo-Dutch War of 1666 and survived just one year in service. The second, a four-gun sloop, did slightly better – launched in 1673 and wrecked four years later.

The third HMS Chatham was a 50-gun ship launched on October 20, 1691, at Chatham Dockyard. In 1705 it captured the French 60-gun vessel Auguste, which the British then took into service.

The ship underwent a rebuild in 1721 and served until 1749, when it was sunk as a breakwater off the coast of Sheerness, before being raised once again and broken up.

ADVENTURE: Centre: the 18th century HMS Chatham, top is today's incarnation of the name

Another HMS Chatham was a four-gun survey brig launched in 1788, part of George Vancouver's expedition of the Pacific Northwest coast and circumnavigated the globe.

The 11th ship to bear the name started life as the Royal-Hollandais and was planned as a 74-gun vessel for the French Navy. However in 1809 while still under construction in Flushing – now Belgium – the British seized the town. The timbers were taken to Woolwich Dockyard and work on the ship resumed under a different name.

The poor quality timber used in the ship's construction limited its usefulness, although at one time it was the flagship of Rear-Admiral Matthew Scott who commanded the North Sea Fleet. At the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1850, this particular incarnation of the name was laid up at Chatham Dockyard before being sold to be broken up to a man named Joshua Crystall for £5,110.

Another chequered career was that of the 13th HMS Chatham. This was an iron paddlewheel gunboat launched in 1835 and after brief service, exported to the US. At the outbreak of the American Civil War the ship was put into service by the rebel confederacy – the southern states which broke away from the Union.

Used to attempt to run the federal US blockade of southern ports and operating from Savannah, Georgia, the ship was captured by the USS Huron on December 16, 1863. It was then immediately pressed into service by the military of US president Abraham Lincoln – and renamed USS Chatham.

It transported men and supplies throughout the remainder of the war, providing support to the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron – its former direct opponents – charged with cutting the Confederacy off from overseas sources of supply.

The penultimate HMS Chatham was a Town Class light cruiser launched in 1911 and lent to the navy in New Zealand.

The latest version, pennant number F87, became the first British ship to fire its guns in the American-led invasion of Iraq when it engaged targets on the Al-Faw Peninsular in the south in support of advancing Royal Marines.

Other notable deployments include acting as escort to the Royal Yacht Britannia during the hand-over of Hong Kong to the Chinese in 1997, helping with humanitarian relief after the Asian Tsunami of 2004 and hosting the BBC for the show Shipmates.

The ship is currently being examined by would-be purchasers, but no price tag has been named by the Royal Navy.

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OPINION

The hidden problem of booze

MP for Chatham and Aylesford **Tracey Crouch** on the health issues at stake when we regularly relax at home with a glass or more of wine

LIKE most working women, I like to have a glass of wine or two after work with dinner. And so what, you may think?

I don't drink to excess, vomit in the street or have so much that I'm hungover the next day. On the face of it then, like many other working women, I have no cause for concern when it comes to alcohol consumption. Sadly, and perhaps surprisingly, the evidence suggests there is a serious issue.

While alcohol consumption by women has increased steadily since the 1960s, there are a large number of women in professional roles who are drinking up to double the amount than that of women on lower incomes each week. Whether this is a result of changes in social attitudes to women drinking, more money to spend, or the pressures of the workplace, it is clear this is having a significant and damaging impact on their health.

Among women, deaths from alcohol-related conditions like liver disease, cancer and heart disease increased by 20 per cent over the last decade, including here in the south east.

For women in higher professional roles, deaths increased by 23 per cent, and for those in intermediate occupations, such as those employed in secretarial roles and other skilled work, the increase in deaths amounted to a frightening 47 per cent.

In my own constituency, the number of women admitted to hospital as a result of alcohol abuse increased from 577 in 2008/9 to 710 in 2011/12 – a statistic replicable across Kent.

A woman drinking in excess of 35 units a week is classed as a harmful drinker, which is around half a bottle of wine a night – here in the south east, one in 10 admit to drinking five days or more a week. This might not seem like a lot after a long stressful day, but if sustained over a period of time, the impact this level of consumption has on a person's health – which may not be immediately obvious – could be dramatic.

There is no silver bullet that can solve the issues surrounding harmful levels of drinking.

Of course, services specialising in intensive residential intervention and rehabilitation need to be there for those who require it, such as the Kenward Trust in west Kent. But these are expensive programmes for dependent drinkers and so maybe we need to focus efforts on those who are at a stage of harm before addiction.

There is a strong link between alcohol consumption and price. The Government is considering introducing a 45p minimum unit price for alcohol as part of its alcohol strategy, which it is estimated would result in a reduction of harmful consumption by women drinkers of over six per cent.

There is no silver bullet that can solve the issues around harmful levels of drinking

A minimum unit price of 45p will not impact on the price of a pint or glass of wine in a pub, but research shows it will make some harmful drinkers think twice about buying stronger and cheaper alcohol.

However, a minimum unit price will not necessarily impact on all working women, which is why making people aware of the harm alcohol can do must be the first step – the vast majority of women may not even realise they are drinking to harmful levels.

There is no simple answer to this, nor is this a women-only problem, but the increase in alcohol-related deaths, addictions and diseases is stark.

It is not for Government to intervene on my or anyone else's drinking habits, but maybe it can make it a little less accessible and for those who do decline into dependency, the right programmes need to be in place to help.

KOS COMMENT

Culture bid could be the one to put us on the map

OVER the years there has been many a pledge from the county's great and good about "putting Kent on the map".

Some projects have worked, others perhaps not.

But this latest scheme, the bid to become the UK City of Culture, if successful, is one of those that would definitely do just this.

Such a prestigious title would not only open up the delights of east Kent to the rest of the UK, but word would spread overseas to tourists – and businesses – coming to this country. It would certainly renew the sense of pride we feel about where we live.

Let's all get behind this bid and shout from the rooftops as to why we should be the ones bestowed the great honour.

Get behind the Hop Farm

IT'S sad news when any business goes under but perhaps even sadder when a tourist attraction as popular as the Hop Farm finds itself in difficulties.

Over the years, it has been one of the foremost venues when considering a day out. But, like so many others, it has found times tough. Let us hope it bounces back.

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Dunes at Greatstone by Colin Brotherwood

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Independence is for the rich

I read with interest the letter in this newspaper from Cllr Ian Driver espousing the virtues of being an independent councillor and attacking political parties.

What the councillor did not tell your readers was that he was actually elected as a Labour councillor in a Labour ward but chose to resign his party membership and parade around as an independent.

He is correct that some people view such shenanigans with a degree of cynicism – if he wants to put some respect back into the political process he should have resigned his seat and fought a by-election under his new colours. Of course he won't do that as he knows what the outcome would be.

The other fact is that the electors of Thanet didn't vote for Ian Driver as some sort of wonderful person but because ordinary Labour party members put hundreds of hours into knocking on doors, leafleting and paying for election materials to ensure they got a Labour councillor. Instead they got someone who didn't feel in any way accountable to them as a group.

The Labour Party was founded by trade unionists and other working people to ensure ordinary folk had a voice in Parliament and on councils.

Driver's vision of independents running the show is one where those rich enough to prosper as individuals get elected and devil take the hindmost.

Mass politics requires political parties with manifestoes and democratically arrived at policies.

The Kent County Council elections coming up offer a serious choice about which party you want to run our services – sadly Ian Driver's posturing is utterly irrelevant to that.

Keith Veness, Broadstairs

I don't believe in fox attacks

IT seems odd to me that for a second time a baby has been attacked by a fox entering a house. I have foxes in my garden and I leave out food for them every night.

I have cats, which sometimes sit next to the foxes while they eat. But as soon as I grab my camera to take a night picture of this Disney-like scene, the foxes see me and run off petrified.

The foxes do not interfere with my cats. In fact, one of my cats sometimes chases them away.

I am a bit suspect about all the publicity regarding this alleged fox attack.

Is this a concerted effort to demonise foxes in order to repeal the Hunting Act?

We are losing much of our wildlife at an alarming rate and everything should be done to preserve the beautiful creatures that share our world and their habitats before it is too late.

Vivien Clifford, by email

Fan's favourite Gills line-up

MY Dad took me to see the Gills in 1957, so I was "sentenced" at an early age.

I'm still a season ticket holder, so I have seen the good times and quite a bit of bad.

As for the Gills team of the century, John Simpson is the best goalie I have ever seen... far superior to Ron Hillyard.

I do agree with Bruce and Hope.

Charlie Marks was one of my Dad's favourites.

Dennis Hunt was a crowd favourite because he was a bit of a thug, but David Peach has got to be the best left-back.

My midfield would be Andy Hessenthaler, Paul Smith and Alec Farrell (Alec was pure class).

The last three places would have to be Ade Akinbyi, Bob Taylor and John Meredith, defenders hated playing against Akinbyi and there was a period before Taylor was sold to Man City when he could do no wrong. Meredith was such a classy left-sided player in the 60s.

Substitues would be Yeo, Asaba, Ashby, Jarvis, Rackstraw, Patterson, Hillyard.

Mick Long, by email

Roads need to be even safer

I WAS interested in Terry Hudson's comments that it could not be proved that the provision of speed cameras caused a reduction in road accidents.

However, it will be interesting to know what could reduce road accidents and most studies show that speed increases the risk of fatalities and serious injuries, which is one of the reasons why the highway code shows both thinking and braking time.

Does Mr Hudson have any evidence to show that whilst professional bodies such as the Chartered Institute of Transport and Logistics accept this, that they are wrong?

If not, how does he suggest that we should be able to reduce accidents? 20 mile an hour limits in built up areas would save lives.

There are now gadgets which can show who was driving and this might prevent disqualified drivers being at the wheel, which certainly in my area has caused fatal accidents in the past.

Perhaps Mr Hudson can think of other ways of saving people's lives, or is he part of the autocracy which believes in the worship of the car?

Would it also be helpful, particularly in rural areas, to have better footpaths and pavements to prevent people being injured?

Perhaps motorists who are guilty of dangerous driving should have appropriate punishments such as having to work in A&E departments so that they can see the problems which they cause.

David Spurling, Sittingbourne

Badger cull is not the answer

PUBLIC opinion polls routinely show decisive opposition to the badger cull.

In October, MPs voted to abandon the cull by 147 to just 28 votes. Eminent scientists, such as Professor John Bourne and Lord John Krebs, have spoken out against the cull, while wildlife experts, Sir David Attenborough and Chris Packham, also oppose it.

The Government defines bovine TB as 'an infectious disease of cattle'. Better on-farm welfare, tighter biosecurity and stricter cattle movement controls are the key to combating it.

To protect badgers from this disease – and to prevent them passing it back to cows – vaccination can be usefully employed, as is the case in Wales. Why won't the government listen to scientific experts and to public opinion? Where is the democracy?

Kate Fowler, head of campaigns, Animal Aid, Tonbridge

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Publisher: Simon Irwin
Editor: Chris Britcher
Address: Apple Barn, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS
Editorial: Telephone 01303 817100; Fax 01303 817002; Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
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NICKY 43, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392890**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397791**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389881**

SUSIE young 65, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

LISA 5ft 3ins, 43, average build plus a few pounds, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for man for dates. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401421**

52YR old black female, sociable, seeks romantic, articulate white male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402923**

REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273**

JAN 55, petite, seeks male, 49-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394382**

CAROLINE 60, 5ft 2ins, likes animals, walks, travel, gardening, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400947**

DANCE partner sought by lady beginner in ballroom and Latin American dancing, ideally 55 plus, to visit local dances for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401333**

47YR old female, fun loving, green eyes, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 47-52 with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401287**

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 58-68 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521**

SINGLE mum, 35, white British, 5ft 2ins, varied interests, looking for male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400319**

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, likes animals, seeks kind, gentleman to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394923**

BLACK African lady, late 30's, no kids, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272**

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FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173**

MARGARET 67, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390249**

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S activest, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394849**

MICHELLE petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, GHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398618**

SENSUAL female looking to enjoy life a little more, seeking like-minded male to enjoy interesting conversations over dinner, hopefully furthering our experience. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398198**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

SANDRA outgoing 53, caring, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390330**

40YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397797**

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, likes life, fit, active, seeks male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393066**

DEBBIE 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398127**

YOUNG looking lady, late 60's, medium build, caring, intelligent, seeks kind, caring, intelligent man with GSOH of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398095**

HAZEL blonde, 60, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 58-68 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393259**

WIDOW 70's, many interests, seeks gent who misses companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396481**

LOUISE loving, caring, thoughtful lady, likes photography, countryside, animals, seeks mature, N/S, genuine, caring, N/S gent with car to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397328**

45YR old female, 5ft 6ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319**

PAT widowed mid 60's blonde female, loves dancing, happy-go-lucky WLTM similar aged nice male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398195**

FEMALE 21, brown eyes, loving, looking for male, 20-30 for nights in and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398057**

INTERESTING attractive, uncomplicated, intelligent lady, many interests, seeks honourable, kind gent, 65-75 for long term companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392211**

FOLKESTONE lady, 5ft, 5ft 1ins, animal lover, cuddly, affectionate, GSOH, seeks male, 58-63 to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395551**

SUE 54, fairly slim, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks male, 49-55, N/S, likes football, sports, meals out etc., looking for lasting relationship and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 515 7113 Box No: 392883**

SUE 53, slim, blue eyes, likes football, animals, seeks N/S male, 45-55 for loving, lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386247**

FEMALE likes country walks, gardening, animals, seeks male for company, meals out and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398387**

BLACK female, 30, likes animals, swimming, music, singing, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393941**

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7113 Box No: 395805**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396401**

Men Seeking

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(T&C's below)

BRUCE likes meals out, romantic walks, days out, seeking lady, 48-60 for friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400097**

PRETTY petite lady sought by older, professional businessman, looking for LTR and loyalty. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396533**

SALVATORE 68, N/S, widow, Italian, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400481**

KEVIN 49, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402408**

CHRIS 66, 5ft 8ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

EDDIE African male, seeking female, 20-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394304**

SWANSEA man, 51, 5ft 8ins, slim, seeks slim female for nights in/out, company, walks, talks and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7113 Box No: 400930**

BLACK British male, African descent, medium build, varied interests, understanding, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402641**

TED 63, 5ft 7ins, average build, seeks female 55-75 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401913**

ANDY 36, sexy, fun, come say hello. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402993**

BLACK male, 50, bubbly personality, seeks buxom, pear shaped, rubenesque white female, 25-55 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403887**

TONY 60, likes nights in/out, football, fishing, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394506**

BRIAN fun loving, happy go lucky, likes walks, animals, cuddles, nights in/out, seeking loving, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403729**

ROBERT medium build, single, seeks nice, attractive, busty female with sexy clothes. **Tel No: 0906 515 7113 Box No: 402997**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easy-going, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402931**

YOUNG mixed race male, seeking female for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402496**

AARON 35, no ties, 5ft 9ins, clean shaven, attractive, Italian background, chef, down to earth, open minded, likes meals out, weekends away, socialising, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400497**

TIM own carflat, seeks N/S lady 60-70's for holidays, companionship etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7113 Box No: 401351**

5FT 7ins white male, 50, N/S, looking to settle down. **Tel No: 0906 515 7113 Box No: 401097**

AVERAGE male, 50's, large build, broadminded, GHAC, GSOH, naturist novice, smoker, seeks petite/medium build lady for relationship. Must be uninhibited, broadminded and mature. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401587**

PETE 55, good looking, 6ft 2ins, own hair, seeking attractive female, 45-60 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394204**

GENUINE fun loving guy 58, medium build, blue eyes, seeks genuine lady, 45-57 for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401761**

GRAHAM 52, N/S, likes days out, antique fairs, animals, seeks slim, attractive, N/S lady, 40-50 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401727**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401065**

TALL 64yr old young at heart N/S male, widower, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401531**

TONY retired, GSOH, likes indoor life, dvds, seeking N/S lady, 65 plus, likes countryside for friendship. West Sussex area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401481**

BARRY 49, 6ft, well built, easygoing, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401401**

THANET male, smart, young, mid 60's, caring, 5ft 9ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive, local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401399**

CHRIS 51, looking for young female, 25-42, white, slim, N/S for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401355**

HANDCUFFS and whips. Male 48, seeks younger, slim-medium build female for fun times. Chatham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401065**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, GHAC, likes most things, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401261**

GENT 49, romantic, caring, reliable, fun, seeks nice lady friend with same attributes, who has also been badly let down. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401353**

ALAN from Kent, looking for Miss Right to fall in love again. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401329**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, GSOH, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401389**

SINGLE solvent 60yr old male, seeks female companion for days out and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401281**

SEAMUS 5ft 10ins, black hair, green eyes, average build, likes travel, weekends away, animal lover, varied interests, N/S, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401279**

SLIM 67yr old male, fit, loving, 5ft 7ins, blue eyes, independent, sociable, easygoing, enjoys usual, seeks honest lady to share it all with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401245**

LOVING caring Ashford male, 46, likes outdoors, country pubs, cosy nights in, seeks similar female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401203**

Gay Seeking

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BI male, senior, clean shaven, Maidstone area, seeks bi male, N/S for occasional meets, must be discreet, 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402593**

DAVID 65, retired, M, looking for man, 60-75 for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402249**

STEVEN 60, looking for LTR with man, 50 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402147**

BI guy 45, seeking similar bi gay for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402093**

Friendship

MALE early 60's, fit, active, many interests, seeks similar male for friendship and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7113 Box No: 401631**

JACK mature male, Thanet area, seeks friends of either sex, any age for chats. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399404**

YVONNE 60, seeks male/female friends for chats, any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397641**

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GUYS TEXT FOR FUN. SEND INDEP followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to **66888**

(T&C's below)

SASSY Blonde 20yrs loves fun chat. **Text INDEP 204896 to 66888**

ADVENTUROUS lady, ask me about myself. I'm here for you. **Text INDEP 205191 to 66888**

SALLY Ann hoping to chat with mature man **Text INDEP 205206 to 66888**

NIKITA, Russian beauty, has naughty side to her and loves to chat. **Text INDEP 205093 to 66888**

MARILYN, feminine petite blonde, own home and just loves to text. **Text INDEP 204910 to 66888**

ASIAN lady, very kind and respectful. Loves to chat to English men. Text me. **Text INDEP 204550 to 66888**

LADY 22yrs is interested in texting men for chats. **Text INDEP 204962 to 66888**

SALLY and Sophie 19yr old twins love to share everything. Call us for a chat. **Text INDEP 204614 to 66888**

MATURE lady, very young looking 60, curvy figure, loves to chat with younger men.**Text INDEP 204784 to 66888**

DIVORCED and happy lady, doesn't get out much so loves to chat with those who do. **Text INDEP 204530 to 66888**

SUSIE, attractive nurse, works a nightshift so free during the day. Text me. **Text INDEP 205021 to 66888**

BORED and lonely, home alone all day, give me something to brighten up the lonely hours. **Text INDEP 205009 to 66888**

ASIAN female, wants chats with white man. Interested to learn English ways. **Text INDEP 204795 to 66888**

SINGLE mum, kids at school all day, would love some fun chats. **Text INDEP 205285 to 66888**

JASMINE, exotic beauty, text me what you like and I will text back. **Text INDEP 204868 to 66888**

BIG is best, cuddly lady seeks skinny mes. Call, whatever you look like, how will I know! **Text INDEP 205069 to 66888**

SUE, sporty and fun , why not chat with me. **Text INDEP 205455 to 66888**

Men TEXT FOR FUN!

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(T&C's below)

SINCERE, single Dad, lonely seeks lady to chat to, single mums, swap notes about life in general. **Text INDEP 204947 to 66888**

SOLVENT business gent, would love to have a phone friend to chat with. **ACA. Text INDEP 204937 to 66888**

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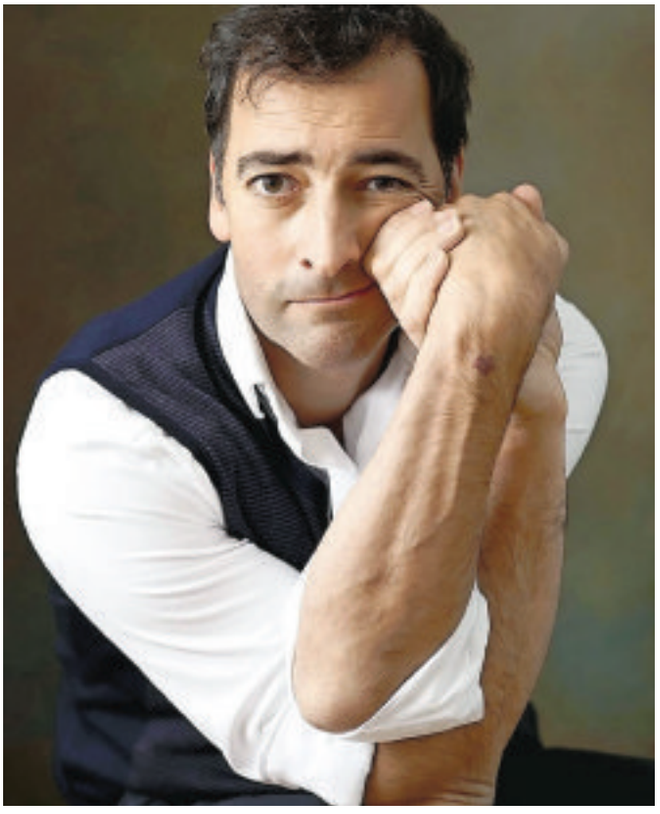
By **JOE BILL**



Alistair makes a good impression

The funnyman talks about his excitement at returning to stand-up... and not satire

MUCH more than a man of many voices, Alistair McGowan is keen to remind people of his talents – and not just his bread-and-butter impressions but his long-established stand-up skills.

More famous for the BAFTA Award-winning TV series The Big Impression in 2003, McGowan is venturing out on the road for only the second time in 10 years on the Not Just A Pretty Voice tour.

"I did a lot of stand-up years ago. But I don't think people ever knew that because before our TV programme was aired there weren't many stand-up shows like Live At The Apollo that you could be on. They've all emerged after The Big Impression, so many people don't really know about the generation of comedians who did stand-up before."

'There are lots of impressions and lots of jokes and a little bit of my opinions about the world'

McGowan is notorious for portraying modern-day celebrities, pop stars and sports stars. His teaming up with Ronni Ancona to deliver an impersonation of Posh and Becks is still regarded as a classic of its kind.

"I did a tour about three years ago – that was my first ever – and I learned a lot of lessons on it. This is five times better – I feel it's the best material I've ever done as a stand-up for 24 years.

"There are lots of impressions and lots of jokes and a little bit of my opinions about the world."

McGowan, 48, is well known for his political support for the Green Party and his strong views on the environment, but he tends to steer away from affairs of state in his comedy.

He said: "It's not a satire. I'm not Rory Bremner and I never have been. People seem to get confused about that. They think that if you're an impressionist, because of the history of Rory and Mike Yarwood, that we are all about political satire.

"But people like Phil Cool and Bobby Davro and myself are more there to use our jokes through the impressions."

However, McGowan doesn't refrain from using the voice or character of some of the UK's most well-recognised political personalities.

"There's a routine I do at the moment which is possibly the most political thing I've ever done. It's about Michael Portillo and that trains programme. I was watching it and I thought it was strange how everywhere he goes, he turns up with his little book and is really surprised that all the industry has died out in these cities. When he asks people about it they just say 'Yeah, it came to an end'.

"My line is that there is a scene that they film that gets cut out every time with the person saying 'Well, it was your government, Michael. You sent everything out to the Far East to make things cheaper. Now we're paying for it doubly because we've got to buy things from them and nobody has any money because nobody's got any work – the towns are crumbling around us and there's lots of social unrest and it all comes back to you, mate!' People have enjoyed it, so I'm very pleased."

McGowan uses TV shows and famous characters for his jokes, but he also has his own opinions voiced through one of his many impressions.

He said: "There is another that I just thought up about the Government announcing that they want to build on green-belt land. They said they want to build 50,000 homes in 20 years, which is a town the size of Slough. And I just thought, well, you want to build somewhere like Slough, why don't you knock down Slough and build on that.

"I did that joke as myself and it works, but then I told it as Andy Parsons and it went up four or five times in terms of how successful it was. It suits his rhythm and that's important."

McGowan heads to both Quarterhouse in Folkestone and the Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells as part of his tour in April.

"Another lesson I learned last time is that I tried to do as many dates in as short a space of time as possible, but, because I don't drive, it becomes about whether the trains work from one place to the next.

"This time I have got fewer dates, so when I come to Kent, and because I don't go there very often, I'm hoping to stay a couple of nights and enjoy it. My girlfriend will come with me and we don't have children, so we can just stay on there and have a really good look at a place, which is really nice."

McGowan is also a keen sports fan and uses a number of stars in his array of impressions, but it was a chance to work at Wimbledon during the 2011 tournament that captured his sporting heart.

"I'd worked for a producer from a football show and he knew I was mad-keen on tennis and he said to go help with their coverage. And I did – it was a dream come true, really. I went every day. I've always wanted to.

"Seeing all the players close up was brilliant. There was a funny story there, though. They had me on Court Two for a couple of days. And on Court Two there was a massive scoreboard, like there are on the show courts. So I started writing down the scores so when they came to me on air I would have it ready. But then I thought there was no need to take it down because there was the scoreboard in front of me.

"When they finally came to me, I said a few things about what had been happening in the match and read out a few gags and then I looked up to read out the score. The players were changing ends, so scores from the other matches around the tournament were being shown. So I guessed at it. I learned that lesson very early on. I don't think I'll be doing it again – I'm not really sure how successful it was."

McGowan was also part of the team that produced Spitting Image in the 80s and 90s. Did he think it might return to our screens?

"I'd be very surprised to see it come back. There might be a different style of doing it, like a show called 2D TV, which used computerised images.

"I asked a friend and he said 'Well, if you think of a stand-up show like Live At The Apollo, you've got three comics – each one has a small set, a microphone and a huge number of people in the audience. To do Spitting Image topically you have 15 script-writers, caricaturists, puppet-makers, plus the voice-over artists and directors. It's not the same as pointing a camera at a comedian and saying go.

"It was an expensive show to make and sadly that doesn't happen any more. Having said that, if it did come back, I would love to do it again."

■ **Alistair McGowan plays Folkestone's Quarterhouse on Friday, April 5. Buy tickets from www.quarterhouse.co.uk or phone 01303 858500.**
He will then be at Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells on Friday, April 12; buy tickets from www.trinitytheatre.net or by phoning 01892 678678.

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International singer is a woman of the world

CLAUDIA Aurora is bringing her powerful voice and the Portuguese folk-blues style of fado to the forthcoming Equator festival.

The fadista and songwriter from Oporto, Portugal, is performing at St Mary's Church in Ashford on Saturday, March 16, at 7.30pm as part of the festival's Women Of The World event.

Her debut album Silêncio is the first collection of original fado songs to be recorded in the UK since the great Portuguese fado diva Amália Rodrigues recorded at Abbey Road Studios in 1952.

It preceded a sell-out six-date UK tour.

Aurora moved to Bristol in 2003 and built a reputation as a stunning live performer before moving to London early last year.

Tickets are priced at £12 (concessions £9 and children £3) when booking online at www.equatorfestival.com or via Ashford Visitor Information Centre on 01233 330316.

The Bard's troupe is heading to Margate with 'new' King Lear

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

SHAKESPEARE'S Globe's travelling troupe returns to Theatre Royal Margate with a new production of King Lear.

The title role will be played by Joseph Marcell, best known as playing butler Geoffrey alongside Hollywood star Will Smith in the television series The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air.

He was last at the Globe in the 2011 production of Much Ado About Nothing. Joining him as Gloucester is New Zealand stage and screen actor Rawiri Paratene, star of the Oscar-nominated film Whale Rider.

It is a great chance to see the ultimate Shakespearian tragedy in the beautiful setting of the Theatre Royal – one of the oldest theatres in England.

Old King Lear, weary of royal duties, proposes to break up his kingdom and divide it among his three daughters.

However, this rash generosity is cruelly repaid and Lear discovers too late the false values by which he has lived – and is ultimately plunged into despair and madness.

Shot through with touches of humour and moments of heart-rending simplicity, King Lear is a deep artistic exploration of the human condition.

The artistic director of Shakespeare's Globe, Dominic Dromgoole, said: "Our tours have proved hugely successful at refreshing and revitalising Shakespeare's plays, so you don't only see Lear, but Lear as if brand new. We can promise an exciting and vibrant experience."

Using an Elizabethan-style booth stage, inspired by paintings and etchings from Shakespeare's time, when touring was prevalent, eight actors will visit inspiring settings across the UK, Europe and Asia with this scaled-down production.

After leaving Margate, the show heads east to Turkey, where it will be performed at one of Istanbul's most iconic Byzantine churches, the Aya Irini, which dates from 548AD.

Tickets are £20 or £15 (restricted view). For more information and to book, visit www.theatreroyalmargate.com or phone 01843 926111 or 01843 292795

The performance of King Lear runs from Thursday to Saturday, April 18-20, starting at 7.30pm.

HE'S THE KING: Joseph Marcell is taking on the title role

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

A superb night of food and fun gives The Dove wings

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

IT'S rare for a Brtish pub not to be packed to the rafters with a rich history. Tales of ghosts, old tyranical landlords, high-profile customers... even those whose upstairs rooms may have been put to another use.

There is, though, a new tale to be told at The Dove in Dargate. Chef patron Phill McGregor started his culinary journey at the rural pub years ago before heading to London to learn his trade under a number of top chefs.

His return to The Dove bred countless reports of great food in a great location... it was time to try it for myself. The Dove remains very much a village pub with its classical-looking bar, pictures of previous owners on the walls and a warm stove fire. The atmosphere is buzzy and the tables in the nooks and crannies merge the bar area and restaurant together seamlessly.

We were handed a couple of home-cooked breads and delicious butter before our starters, for which I chose smoked haddock and macaroni topped with Parmesan with poached duck egg.

Served in a mini cast-iron skillet, the delicate flavours were far lighter than a usual pasta. The strong taste of the haddock was delicious and worked well alongside the creamy macaroni. The egg had been cooked to perfection.

My guest, a chef, went for the chicken liver and fois gras parfait topped with pea shoots and

served with sourdough toast and pineapple chutney. The dish was presented well, with the parfait arriving in a ball carved with an ice-cream scoop. It was a nice piece of individuality and a quick taste delivered the rich, creamy texture.

For mains I chose the eight-hour-braised ox-cheek with savoy cabbage, carrots and puree potato. The tender ox-cheek, cooked in red wine, fell apart enticingly on contact with the fork and was a real pleasure to eat.

It was amazing to devour two traditionally-heavy courses that included both pasta and potato and still feel comfortably full. My guest went for the confit duck leg served with puy lentils and a creamy potato gratin. He complimented both the seasoning and the south-west France influence, but it was the cleared plate that spoke of le magnifique flavours.

For dessert I opted for the chocolate fondant served with cardamom ice-cream. Our waiter informed us that all the ice-creams served at The Dove were made in-house, which was particularly impressive when my guest's classic crème brûlée came out with plum-pudding ice-cream. It was another nice touch, with the pub situated on Plum Pudding Lane in Dargate.

Both desserts were very good. There was also a nice gap between courses in which to enjoy a great atmosphere. In short, this was one of the best meals I've had in some time.

The bill, including drinks and a service charge, came to £84.45. The whole evening seemed all very simple but with a touch of personality here and there to set it apart from the rest. Time really does fly when you're having fun at The Dove.

Joe Bill

■ **The Dove**
Plum Pudding Lane, Dargate ME13 9HB (telephone 01227 751360; website www.doveatdargate.co.uk)

New boss to oversee Hotel Du Vin team

PHILIP Archer has been appointed the new general manager at the popular Tunbridge Wells Hotel du Vin.

He joins the Hotel du Vin group from South Lodge Hotel in West Sussex, having started at The Montagu Arms Hotel with its Michelin-starred restaurant in the New Forest.

He said: "I am delighted to have joined the Hotel Du Vin in Tunbridge Wells – it is a hotel that has been a personal favourite of mine. This really is a fantastic property with a great team and I look forward to exciting times ahead."

The hotel on Crescent Road is known for its good food and well-stocked wine cellars. Visit www.hotelduvin.com for more information.

A taste of Hollywood comes to the BBC

KENT celebrity bread-maker Paul Hollywood will star in his own solo series following the success of BBC's The Great British Bake-Off.

The baker, whose Artisan Bread Company is in Aylesham, will host the new show, which airs on BBC Two from Monday, March 18.

Hollywood was quoted as saying: "I've been all over the country looking into the history of bread... most of the cakes before the 1820s were made with yeast and it wasn't until the introduction of raising agents that you got the light, fluffy cake that we prize today."

Hollywood starred alongside Mary Berry in The GBBO, which proved a huge ratings success.

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Concert can create cross-Channel harmony

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

AN ANGLO-FRENCH collaboration will mark the second event of the Deal Festival of Music and Arts Spring series next weekend.

More than 100 musicians from the Caliband and l'Orchestre d'Harmonie 'L'Esperance' de Neufchatel-Hardelot will join together to perform the UK premiere of Asian Sunrise conducted by Fabric Bouchez, which was originally composed for the 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

The project, called Symbiosis, invited Jean-Philippe Vanbeselaere from Omer in France, winner of national and international awards for his work, to write a piece that joined the music of a wind band with the strings of a symphony orchestra.

Picture: MICHEL DUMONT

IN TUNE: French wind musicians will be joining forces with the string ensemble for Deal Festival

The Caliband is Deal Festival's string ensemble, which has grown from strength to strength since its formation last year. It comprises amateur musicians of all ages and the highest standard and combines with a professional string quartet.

They will perform Tchaikovsky's Serenade, premiered in 1880 and described as one of the late romantic era's most definitive compositions. They will also perform Adagaio For Strings by Samuel Barber and Chick Corea's Spain.

The concert is taking place at St George's Church in the town on Saturday, March 16, at 7.30pm.

Tickets, priced at £12, or £5 for students, are available from Astor Community Theatre, Deal, on 01304 370220, at www.theastor.org, or from Willie Cooper on 01227 786111.

Visit www.dealfestival.co.uk to find out more information.

Young and tempted by theatre? This is your chance...

PROMISING young thespians have the chance to get to grips with theatre life thanks to an Easter workshop being held in Thanet.

Granville Theatre Arts in Ramsgate is hosting the four-day workshop for children to learn about performing, dancing, singing, drama and percussion.

Part of the course caters for children who might not enjoy performing but are interested in the technical behind-the-scenes activities of a stage production such as lighting, sound and special effects.

The course will end with a performance taking place on the final day.

It is open for youngsters aged four to 18 and costs £60 per child.

It takes place from Monday to Thursday, April 8-11, from 10am to 4pm, with the Thursday-evening performance starting at 6pm at the Granville Theatre in Victoria Parade, Ramsgate.

For more information, you can phone Trudi on 01843 855000 or email trudi.granville@gmail.com.

FAB FOUR

MAC Theatre, K College, Tonbridge
Wednesday, April 3, 8pm
Website: www.k-venue.co.uk
Email: kvenue@kcollege.ac.uk

Larkin Poe: The folk-Americana oufit are playing Tonbridge during their UK tour. The video for the single I Believe In Love has been a huge YouTube hit. Tickets £12 (concessions £10).

Fairfax Gallery, Tunbridge Wells
Friday, April 26, to Tuesday, May 14
Phone: 01892 525525
Email: andrew@fairfaxgallery.com

Adam Hargreaves: Roger Hargreaves created the Mister Men, and his son Adam has taken on that legacy. This exhibition, however, features his landscape work. Free entry to the gallery.

Tower Theatre, Shorncliffe
Thursday, March 14
Web: www.towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk
Phone: 01303 277175

British jazz: Tribute to Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers. The line-up includes trumpeter Steve Fishwick, trombonist Geoff Mason and sax-man Kelvin Christiane. Tickets £10.

St Lawrence's Church, Sidcup
Saturday, April 20, 8pm
Web: www.bexleyphoenixchoir.org.uk
Phone: 07831 201933

Bexley Concert Choir: A concert featuring both sacred and secular music, including Bach's If Thou Art Near. Tickets £6 (children and students £3); either by phone (above) or on the door.

Delve into the Astor years at Hever Castle

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

Hever Castle is celebrating a triple anniversary with a special exhibition.

This year marks 50 years since it opened its doors to the public, 110 years since the American multi-millionaire William Waldorf Astor bought it and 30 years since the Hever Estate was bought by the Guthrie family.

In recognition of the landmarks, the castle has opened an exhibition to rejoice in the legacy of the Astor years.

Lady Astor was invited to cut the ribbon and open the exhibition by Richard Guthrie, whose family own Hever Castle and gardens.

The interactive exhibition in the castle's Astor Suite brings the Upstairs, Downstairs years vividly to life.

Letters and photographs tell of the castle's restoration and creation of the magnificent gardens.

Visitors can interact with everyday objects such as telephones and radios, listen to interviews with former below-stairs staff and watch the Astor family's collection of home movies.

One film from 1928 shows the annual Hever Day, when 2,000 staff from The Times newspaper would arrive from London for a day out.

Astor moved from America to England in 1891 with a reputed $100 million (the equivalent of at least 10 times that amount today) after declaring that America was no longer a fit place for a gentleman to live.

He bought Hever in 1903 and employed an incredible 748 craftsmen to restore it to its former glory, adding the Tudor-style village to accommodate visiting family, guests and domestic staff.

Astor brought in all the comforts of Edwardian life and was among the first country-house-owners to install bathrooms with modern plumbing, electricity and central heating.

Astor's younger son, John Jacob V, succeeded to the ownership in 1919. A medal-winning Olympian, he became an MP in 1922, the same year in which he bought The Times. In 1963, he opened the castle to the public to raise money for its upkeep.

Gavin Astor, 2nd Baron of Hever, inherited Hever Castle in 1971. Devastating floods on top of rising maintenance and running costs eventually forced him to sell the castle and its 3,000-acre estate in the early 80s.

Artist sketches out a stunning exhibition

A SET of life-like pencil drawings is to go on display at a Wrotham hotel and restaurant.

Victoria Andrew will have 11 of her pieces on show at the 600-year-old Bull Hotel in Wrotham from Good Friday, March 29.

The self-taught mother-of-two specialises in pencil drawings on painted boards, capturing the heart and soul of her favourite subjects – children and animals.

"I am delighted to have my work on display," she said. "Drawing is a hobby for me and I am continually busy with commissions from clients' favourite photographs. I am often told my drawings are the talking piece of a family home."

Her work will be on display until the end of the year, and to coincide with that the hotel is offering customers 10 per cent off a two-course meal. See www.originalsinpencil.co.uk to download the offer-voucher.

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A dark evening at the Astor

FANS of Gothic are set for a treat with a play coming to Deal's Astor Community Theatre.

The Gothic Female, the tale of a haunted woman who tells tales of the macabre, will play at the Astor on the evening of Friday, March 22.

Adapted and performed by Rebecca Vaughan and directed by Guy Masterson, the audience will discover an artist gripped by the clutching fingers of a dead past, a scientist defying nature in the dark realm of the senses and an expectant father driven mad by creeping shadows.

Dyad Productions creates, produces and tours classic theatre with an innovative and contemporary emphasis. This dark celebration of female Gothic drama is its fourth original production in as many years.

Tickets are priced at £12 and available from the Astor Community Theatre (phone 01304 370220, website www.theastor.org). The performance starts at 7.30pm.

Balance is the key to success for top tots

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

CYCLING toddlers will have the chance to show they are the best in the country on two wheels at a unique event at Gravesend's Cyclopark.

The multi-million-pound venue, which opened in May last year, will host the British Balance Bike Championship series on Sunday, July 21. Youngsters aged between 18 months and five years will race around the park's BMX track on balance-bikes made by Strider.

It is one of five qualifying events for the national finals, which take place in Manchester, where winners from each age group will be selected for the World Championships in Florida.

Melanie Thomas, organiser of the Strider British Balance Bike Championships, said: "Not only are we growing the capacity for Strider balance-bike races, but the new format has meant that the riders who do well in qualifying events will also ride in the finals and get the chance to win the UK's first-ever balance-bike series.

"Research has proven that balance-bikes significantly improve balance and coordination, which means that even our youngest riders can have a go.

"The Strider events are open to anyone, no matter their ability, and are designed to be exciting yet safe environments for children to explore and play on two wheels, with the added excitement of racing."

DEVELOPMENT: Balance-bikes are way ahead

Weekly sessions have been taking place at Cyclopark for the last four months and are regularly fully booked.

You can visit www.stridercup.org for more information and to register.

FAB FOUR

Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne
Friday, April 5, 7.45pm
Box office: 01795 471140
Website: www.avenuetheatre.co.uk

Silver Linings Playbook (15): After a stint in a mental institution, ex-teacher Pat Solitano moves back with his parents and tries to reconcile with his former wife. Stars Robert De Niro. Tickets £4.

St Mary's Arts Centre, Sandwich
Saturday, March 16, 7pm
Box office: 01304 617771
Email: a.lester@brave.biz

Luke Jackson: Benefit concert in aid of The Folk & Ale Festival 2013 with Jackson, a BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards double-nominee. Tickets £10, from The Admiral Owen, 8 High Street, Sandwich.

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Saturday, March 16, 7.30pm
Box office: 0844 871 7677
Website: www.leascliffhall.co.uk

Hairy Bikers: Larger Than Live: TV chefs Dave Myers and Si King share their culinary expertise from around the world in a show full of food, comedy and the odd song. Tickets £25.

Godinton House and Gardens
Saturday, March 16, 9.30am-2.30pm
Phone: 01233 643854
Web: www.godinton-house-gardens.co.uk

Gardening workshops: Godinton head-gardener and Hadlow College lecturer Fiona Abrahams gives tips on spring pruning and garden tasks... it's a busy time of year. Tickets £55.

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National Apprenticeship Week

March 11-15, 2013

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Apprentices

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National Apprenticeship Week
11-15 March 2013

Can you afford to be without one?

MidKent College is celebrating **National Apprenticeship Week** (11-15 March) by holding four informative events covering a variety of specialisms.

Medway Queen Open Day

Monday
11 March
at 12pm

Gillingham Pier, Pier Approach Road, Gillingham ME7 1RX

Medway Campus Employers' Day

Tuesday
12 March
at 9am

MidKent College, Medway Campus, Medway Road, Gillingham, ME7 1FN

Lab/Science Technician Info Day

Thursday
14 March
at 12pm

Kent Science Park, Broadoak Road, Sittingbourne, ME9 8AG

Maidstone Campus Employers' Day

Thursday
14 March
at 9.30am

MidKent College, Maidstone Campus, Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, ME16 8AQ

Email **business.services@midkent.ac.uk** to register your interest for any of these events.

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National Apprenticeship Week

March 11-15, 2013

Advertising feature

Pivotal role for pair at FosterCare UK

Two young adult apprentices joined independent fostering agency FosterCare UK in November 2012. Four months in, Hannah and Genna play a pivotal role within the social-work and business-development teams attracting, developing and supporting new foster-carers.

Based at Discovery Park in Sandwich, FosterCare UK is a dynamic and growing organisation. Almost 100 people work there, including staff, panel members, foster-carers and consultants – all specialising in the care of children and young people with complex and challenging needs.

As well as setting new standards in professional development for foster-carers, it strives to invest in the futures of young people – both those in its care and those now working as part of the team.

Taking on two apprentices fitted wholly with the fostering service's ethos, as Jonathan Toomey explained: "Being part of the county's apprenticeship scheme reinforces our mission to promote positive outcomes for all young people.

FAMILY MATTERS: FosterCare UK believes in quality placements based on careful matching of carers and young people

"The duo provide vital support to the operational and business administration team, the Registered Manager and social-work team in day-to-day administrative practice.

"In Hannah and Genna, we have found excellent support staff – they are at the centre of operations resourcing our 'front desk'."

For FosterCare UK, finding and matching people with the right skills, experience and environment to the specific needs of the young people they place is paramount.

Jonathan said: "We believe in high-quality family placements based on careful matching between carers and young people."

For apprentice Hannah, being involved in recruiting and supporting new foster-carers is a bonus. "I get to see all sides of the business and work alongside experienced staff to gain job-specific skills," she said.

"As well as admin tasks like uploading data and dealing with phone calls, I'm also helping with social media and marketing campaigns – I'm learning all the time."

Jonathan added: "Kent universities value the high-quality placements we offer, which provide students with real experience of social work within a dynamic and forward-thinking fostering agency."

Experienced foster-carers are needed to:

- Keep sibling groups together in the same home
- Support a teenager with challenging behaviours
- Assess a young parent and child to remain as a unit
- Move a child from residential care into a family setting
- Provide a stable place for a young person on remand

If you're interested in fostering, call 0844 800 1941 or email fostering@fostercareuk.co.uk. You can visit www.fostercareuk.co.uk or the Facebook site at FosterCare-UK.

EYES FORWARD: IPS International is active in a wide range of specialisms, including logistics and IT

IPS International on target

IPS International is a specialist organisation that can support apprentices training in a large number of fields and is always looking to assist both the trainee and the company that takes him or her under its wing.

These include engineering, manufacturing, transport, logistics, IT, glass and glazing, signmaking and health and safety.

Other areas in which the company can be of value are business administration, management, bookkeeping, accountancy and customer service.

Supporting National Apprenticeship Week, which runs from Monday to Friday, the company can help other businesses by offering a complete apprenticeship service – from recruitment to programme delivery.

IPS International says that to employ a new member of staff is of great benefit to the individual and the business itself. Opportunities for existing members of staff can be increased and productivity will also go up thanks to the new member of the workforce.

Skilled and qualified members of the team will advise and assist their new colleague and integrate them into the workforce, while the apprentice can add new ideas and enthusiasm to those already being put into action.

Meanwhile, the apprentice can train for a worthwhile and fulfilling career at the hands of those already doing the job while at the same time being paid to learn a trade.

IPS International wants to help companies and individuals achieve all their goals.

More information is available by phoning 01634 298800, emailing theoffice@ips-international.com or visiting www.ips-international.com.

Busy at MidKent College

MidKent College is celebrating National Apprenticeship Week by holding four informative events covering a variety of specialisms.

Please email business.services@midkent.ac.uk to register your interest.

- **Long Live The Queen!**
Monday, March 11, midday. The Medway Queen, Pier Approach Road, Gillingham ME7 1RX.

The Medway Queen Preservation Society, in partnership with MidKent College, invites you to meet the apprentices helping to revive one of the country's most beloved wartime vessels.

- **Employers' Day**
Medway Campus, Tuesday, March 12, from 9am. Medway Road, Gillingham ME7 1FN.

Are you in the hospitality, travel-and-tourism or hair-and-beauty industries and want to recruit an apprentice?

If so, come and meet some of the students who are nearing the end of their course and looking for employment.

- **Laboratory and Science Technician**
Thursday, March 14, midday. Kent Science Park, Broadoak Road, Sittingbourne ME9 8AG

Visit Kent Science Park to discover how taking on an apprentice laboratory and science technician, funded by MidKent College, could benefit your business.

- **Employers' Day**
Maidstone Campus, Thursday, March 14, at 9.30am. Oakwood Park, Tonbridge Road, Maidstone ME16 8AQ.

BRUSH UP! Maidstone Campus has new hair-and-beauty facilities

Do you run your own salon, spa or hotel and are considering taking on an apprentice?

If so, come and meet students and take a tour of the Maidstone Campus's new hair-and-beauty facilities and find out how to recruit through the JobShop.

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10 days, half board + free drinks

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Quote TT5/9-KOS

15 May & 2 Sept, 2013

This super holiday taking in the best of Tuscany, starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras before taking an afternoon Eurostar to Paris. After an overnight stay, we continue to Milan by train and by coach to Montecatini Terme, in Tuscany, our base for this holiday. At our hotel, you will enjoy half board accommodation and free drinks every night. Included excursions take in Florence, Pisa, Lucca, Siena and the beach resort of Forte dei Marmi.

INCLUDED:

• Escorted throughout
• Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras
• Return rail travel from St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) - afternoon departure
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Our 4-day tour takes in all the sights of Maranello including the Ferrari Museum, Fiorano Test Track, Enzo Ferrari Museum in Modena and we stay at a Ferrari-themed hotel. No trip to Maranello would be complete without taking a Ferrari out for a spin. Test drives are possible with options to drive a range of models, from the brand new California to the 550 Maranello - ranked as one of the most beautiful and technologically-advanced models ever created.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout abroad • 3 nights B&B at the 4-star Maranello Village Hotel • Admissions to: The Ferrari Museum, the Enzo Ferrari Museum PLUS guided bus tour inside the Fiorano test-track proving grounds and Viale Enzo Ferrari • Return Easyjet flights Gatwick to Bologna including one piece of hand luggage • Transfers abroad

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INCLUDED: Escorted throughout abroad • Return flights to Munich from Gatwick • 1 night hotel B&B in Germany • 7-night full-board cruise on the MS Serenity • Transfers abroad

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Quote EL9-KOS

26 September, 2013

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INCLUDED: Escorted throughout
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Trains beat ferries for Channel travel

PASSENGERS crossing the English Channel by rail have outnumbered those using the ferries for the first time.

Government statistics for 2012 have revealed that 20 million people used Le Shuttle or Eurostar services, against 19.7m travelling by sea.

Eurotunnel says it has seen a steady increase in traffic since 2008 – but it is mainly people choosing trains over planes, rather than turning away from ships.

A spokesman said: "People want to take their luggage and family, so a car is the best option."

P&O Ferries says the figures show the overall strength of the market for cross-Channel travel and a spokesman emphasised its main rival was Le Shuttle.

"We are still outperforming Le Shuttle," he said. "Eurostar and its foot passenger service has taken much traffic from the airlines, but when the tunnel was opened the ferries were supposed to curl up and die. This clearly has not happened."

Shares optimism

STOCK markets across the world reached new highs this week on the back of renewed optimism that the global economy is on the upswing.

In Britain, the FTSE 100 hit a five-year high while in New York the Dow Jones set an all-time record. The optimism comes as strong profits were announced by firms in Europe and the US.

Jo James of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce said: "It's very pleasing to see the Dow Jones hit an all-time high. This is certainly the type of message needed to restore business confidence."

Low interest rates on cash savings are another factor as investors look to purchase shares rather than just have funds sitting in a bank or building society.

If you have a business story, **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you. Telephone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**
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Call to re-imagine business if the high street is to survive

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE plight of our high streets is becoming increasingly well documented.

Squeezed by the twin pressures of the boom in online trading and a dramatic slump in the economy, what were once the traditional beating hearts of our communities are now seeing dramatic transformations.

The almost weekly collapse of previous household names has demonstrated beyond doubt that no one is safe from the perils which traders now face.

In order to combat the problem, the Federation of Small Businesses has set up its Keep Trade Local campaign that seeks to stem the tide of business closures, reverse the trend and defend small shops and jobs.

Its local branch is concerned the county's high streets face extinction unless the constituent parts appreciate a different approach is required going into the future.

Chairman for the FSB in the county, Roger House, said: "There is no point in simply chasing the traditional model of the high street – a place where people come together to shop.

"Retail is an important element of a thriving town centre, but it's not sufficient. Instead, you need to re-imagine your high street and town centre, and work towards a future where people come together for many different reasons. Simply continuing as you are is not an option."

There are in the region of 300,000 stores in the UK with 86 per cent employing less than 10 people. Retail sales in 2011 were £303bn, equivalent to 20 per cent of UK gross domestic product, and turnover is forecast to grow by 12 per cent over the next few years.

However, unless new policies and strategies are implemented, retail trends show that, as a share of the total retail spend, town centre sales are expected to continue to decline.

FUTURE? High Streets need to change

There is no quick fix, says the FSB, and solutions will require the combined will of many different people and organisations at all levels from town centre businesses, local authorities, property owners and Government.

Mr House added: "Local and central government may be able to help by adopting some of the recommendations highlighted by the FSB Keep Trade Local Campaign; namely to take proactive steps to promote the reliefs available to small businesses, reconsider parking strategies and change the planning system so that it better supports town centres and high streets.

"With more and more retailers vanishing from our high streets, policy makers now have a clear choice to preserve this decline, or to deliver a genuine level playing field that will help our town centres to fight back."

■ ACCORDING to one analyst, retailers experiencing a decline in their market share must learn from those who are seeing an upsurge – online traders.

Figures from the analyst group Local Data Centre have found that over the last 12 months an average of 20 shops closed every day across the UK.

Dan Wagner, of mobile payment company mPowa, thinks shopping should be redefined as the way people shop changes.

He explained: "The time has gone where we walk around shops, picking items up, queuing, getting them all out at a till, packing them away again, so that you can carry them around for the rest of the day and all the way home.

"An 'everything commerce' mentality will allow unparalleled flexibility regarding transactions. High street shops will need to adapt to the changing demands placed upon them."

FSB recommendations to make a difference

■ Comprehensive and independent impact assessments
Future impact assessments should be commissioned by the local planning authority, not by the applicant.

■ Town centre access and parking
There is an imbalance between many town centre car parking schemes and public transport networks and out-of-town development parking resources, this should be addressed.

■ Targeted rate relief
The burden of business rates falls disproportionally on small businesses and while the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme has reduced some of the imbalance, increases in the level of relief should level the playing field between large and small businesses.

■ Review of the Landlord and Tenant Act
This was written at a time when a very different property market prevailed. Commercial leases must reflect changes in local market conditions.

■ Simplified planning criteria
Obtaining planning permission is a minefield. Planning should be designed to positively encourage development of premises in town centres, helping businesses wanting to expand.

■ Pop-up shops
Empty shops are a wasted economic opportunity. Temporary or pop-up shops would utilise vacant premises until a permanent tenant can be found.

■ Licences and permits
These costs remove funds from businesses and flat rate fees place disproportional burdens on small businesses. The temptation to make up funding shortfalls through increased charges should be resisted.

■ Enforcement
The vast majority of businesses want to trade legally. Help to assist compliance should be adopted and not overzealous enforcement through punitive measures and fines for minor, accidental infringement.

■ Crime against businesses
This is not a victimless crime, it affects a business' ability to attract customers and their profitability. It affects the business owner, their staff and wider community.

■ Finance
Lack of competition in the banking sector restricts a firm's ability to expand. Schemes such as a post bank or business bank are required.

■ Entrepreneurship,
Few people active in the community have a clear grasp of the working of business. Involving businesses would require cherry picking a handful who understand the systems.

■ Innovation
Businesses themselves cannot live in the past, they must adapt to meet the radical changes in consumer behaviour to ensure their own survival. They must develop their key strengths in order to genuinely compete with their out of town and internet rivals.

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Hotel hosts drop-in session with K College and council to mark week

COLLEGE: Council team-up

AS PART of the sixth annual National Apprenticeship Week (see right), Shepway District Council is holding a drop-in session with local further education provider K College for anyone who runs a company or business and is interested in taking on an apprentice.

All the information they need will be available at the event, which is being held at The Grand, Folkestone, on Tuesday, March 12.

Representatives from K College and the council will be on hand to explain how the Apprenticeships – Work For You programme works and the benefits it brings to individuals and their employers. Anyone who brings along a new employer will be entered into a prize draw to win a free training course at K College.

The event runs from 5pm to 7pm.

For more information please contact Alexander Kalorkoti on 01303 853 402.

IT academy gets top marks on first birthday

THE Microsoft IT Academy at MidKent College has been named a 'centre of excellence' on its first anniversary.

Launched by the college's business services division in February 2012, the academy offers software training to students, members of staff and local employers.

It was named a centre of excellence by Microsoft partner Prodigy Learning for delivering more than 250 exams in its first year of operation.

School unveils free app for students and parents

MARGATE'S Hartsdown Academy is leading the way in smartphone technology with its own app.

The college is offering the free app to parents on iPhone, Windows and Android mobiles and will keep them up-to-date with the latest news, events and term dates.

Head of school Tony Davies said: "We are constantly looking at ways to innovate and constantly looking at better ways to keep in touch with families and students."

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OPPORTUNITY: Taking on apprentices will be the focus of a week-long string of special events

Week shines a spotlight on benefit of apprentices

A STRING of events will be taking place across the county next week to mark National Apprenticeship Week.

It is hoped they will cast a spotlight on a method of employing and training staff which is becoming increasingly popular and many point to being a key tool in easing unemployment among the young while providing them with essential skills.

Co-ordinated by the National Apprenticeship Service, it is part of a nationwide campaign designed to showcase the achievements and benefits derived by investing in apprentices.

Running from March 11-15, the focus will be on the benefits to the employer, apprentice and the economy as a whole.

More than 10 will be taking place across Kent, dovetailing with hundreds being staged countrywide.

A huge range of organisations and individuals in Kent, including employers, apprentices, business support and sector organisations, learning providers, colleges and schools will support the week by hosting activities.

These will range from a Skills for Care event in Maidstone, which aims at raising awareness amongst employers in social care regarding the benefits of recruiting apprentices, to a social enterprise event in Canterbury aimed at encouraging small and medium-sized enterprises to recruit more apprentices.

Some of the more unusual activities being planned include an event at Whiting and Hammond, Tonbridge, where apprentice chefs will be challenged to create a new dish at the Little Brown Jug restaurant.

Vic Grimes, divisional area director for London and the south east, said: "Every year National Apprenticeship Week increases in popularity.

"Last year was a huge success and we look forward to showcasing the value high quality apprenticeships bring to individuals, businesses and the wider economy and celebrating Kent's apprentices again this year."

Last week, to highlight the upcoming promotion, there were a number of special events staged nationwide to raise awareness.

These included the launch of a number of short films which saw chief executives swap roles with their apprentices for the day and several apprentices taking to social media to highlight their weeks and what it is like being involved in an apprenticeship.

Other key events this week include breakfast meetings for businesses and young people staged simultaneously in five cities and linked by satellite to hear guest speakers such as business secretary Vince Cable.

There will also be a major report published which will feature the findings of a study undertaken by the Centre for Economics and Business Research into the value, in terms of productivity and financial contribution, which apprentices bring. To find out more visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk/theweek.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good-news story, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000.

Wind farm blows in £3,000 bursary

THE world's largest offshore wind farm is providing students planning to start university this autumn with the chance of securing a £3,000-a-year bursary.

Anyone going to study a subject related to sustainable development, science or engineering, can bid to secure the money towards their tuition fees being put up by London Array, the windfarm off the coast of Whitstable.

The only criteria is that the student lives in, or near to, Graveney and Goodnestone, near Faversham, where the onshore substation for the farm is based.

From 2010 and for each academic year until 2019, London Array is offering one bursary of £3,000 per year towards university tuition fees.

Mike O'Hare, London Array's general manager (operations), said: "The scheme will hopefully not only help attract high quality recruits into this exciting and growing industry but will play an important role in supporting local students through university."

Application forms can be requested by emailing Ademola Solanke, principal accountant at Kent County Council, at ademola.Solanke@kent.gov.uk or downloaded from the London Array website www.londonarray.com.

Call for help to launch small firms into the international marketplace

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

MP Sir Roger Gale says he wants "a one-stop shop" to help smaller businesses that want to break into foreign markets.

The long-serving Conservative politician for Thanet North said he was looking for a body tasked with providing all the necessary support to exporters, including legal advice, practical know-how and information on specific destinations.

EXPORTS: Sir Roger Gale MP says more should be done

He made the comment after listening to a speech by business and enterprise minister, and Sevenoaks MP, Michael Fallon, who said currently fewer than one in five UK firms look abroad to trade.

Sir Roger said: "It strikes me that there is a lot more we in Government can and should do in order to promote businesses exporting.

"This is particularly true for Kent-based companies, which are geographically extremely well positioned to break into European markets.

"Large multinational companies can just jump on a plane but for one, two or three-man bands that is obviously not possible. They are also probably kept so busy running their companies that they are not taking time to raise their sights."

He said a partnership between business, government and local authorities could provide opportunities.

"Together with Kent County Council, what I would like to see is a one-stop shop offering all the support a company needs to export products. They may feel they do not have the expertise to deal with things like export guarantees, but this is the sort of area where support would be made available."

Spot checks to ensure construction safety

HEALTH and safety inspectors will be targeting construction sites across the county in an attempt to improve standards across the sector.

They will be making unannounced visits to ensure duty holders are managing high-risk activity, such as working at height, assess welfare facilities and check whether suitable equipment, such as head protection, is being used.

During 2011/12, three workers were killed while working in construction in the south east and 213 were seriously injured.

Nationally there were 49 deaths and more than 2,800 major injuries.

Emma Stiles, principal inspector of the Health & Safety Executive, said: "Death and injury continue to result from avoidable incidents and it is largely those engaged in refurbishment and repair work who are failing to step up to the mark.

"Poor management of risks and a lack of awareness of responsibilities are unacceptable.

"In many cases simple changes to working practices can make all the difference, and can even save lives. Therefore if we find evidence that workers are being unnecessarily put at risk we will take strong action.

"We are determined to drive the message home that site safety and worker welfare cannot be compromised."

Green cleaning company expanding to Pfizer site

ECO-CLEANING company Cleantec Innovation is set to move to Discovery Park, Sandwich, after reporting a period of sustained growth.

It will make the move to the former Pfizer site next month after outgrowing its previous facilities in Broadstairs.

The company, which exports to more than 30 countries, produces cleaning products which are biodegradable and environmentally friendly for both domestic and commercial use.

MP for South Thanet, Laura Sandys, paid a visit to the company to learn about its impending move.

Discovery Park and its facilities were discussed at the recent launch of the Grow For It campaign, which is aimed at attracting inward investment into east Kent.

MOVE: Cleantec staff meet MP Laura Sandys to discuss the future

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Construction sector hit by a recent low

OUTPUT in UK construction fell in February, a survey has indicated, as the sector suffered its worst month since October 2009.

Industry analysts are calling for a greater number of homes to be built in Kent, but this has been opposed by environmental campaigners who say priority should be given to refurbishing run-down properties. Experts said there was "barely a crumb of comfort" in the figures.

Debenhams shares hit by January snow

SHARES in Debenhams, which has branches in Canterbury, Ashford, Medway and Folkestone, fell by 10 per cent as it issued a profits warning to investors, blaming the January snow.

The company stated the main fall took place between January 14 and 27 when "the UK business was severely disrupted by the snow which fell across the country".

Its shares dropped to 85p in early trading.

Outsourcing saves company thousands

SWALE Heating has signed a multi-million-pound outsourcing deal with Wolseley UK which means all the logistics and warehousing functions at the heating company's Sittingbourne office are run by an outside contractor.

Previously, Wolseley UK was one of three main suppliers but it has now become the sole provider, enabling the heating company to make a six-figure saving on its budget.

Times recognition for insurance business

SEVENOAKS-BASED Markerstudy Group has been named 18th in The Sunday Times 100 Best Company to Work For list after applying to enter for the first time.

Chief executive of the insurance business, Kevin Spencer, said: "I'm immensely proud of the talent, loyalty and enthusiasm I see every day from my workforce and of the business we've created together."

Primark reports good performance figures

CLOTHING chain Primark has enjoyed an outstanding performance in the past few months, according to owner Associated British Foods.

The company has outlets across Kent, including one at Westwood Cross which opened in October last year. It expects total sales to be up 23 percent in six months. Profit margins were higher thanks to lower cotton prices and better trading.

Networking event is a hub for optimisation

OVER 40 small businesses in Folkestone attended Basepoint's Networking Hub for a talk on the optimisation of company websites.

Manager Lorraine May said: "Illustrating the need for businesses to focus on search engine optimisation will enable them to ensure their websites are used to their maximum potential, which in turn should improve the performance and profitability for the upcoming year."

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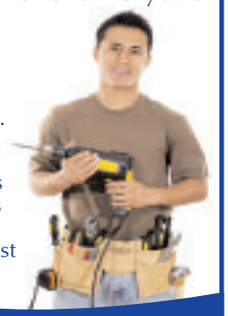

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Dacia reveals talk really can be cheap with budget-buy Sandero

RENAULT has asked "How cheerful is cheap?" after launching its Dacia budget brand.

The arrival, headlined by the Sandero supermini – officially the UK's cheapest car by £1,000 – was delayed by the Romanian brand's success in equally cash-strapped markets across Europe.

It seems churlish, then, to quibble at what you get for the Sandero's starting price of £5,995... but it's not a lot. The Access entry model has no radio, only comes in white and offers basic steel wheels and black bumpers.

That said, it has five doors, all the safety kit expected – though the Euro NCAP safety rating was just three stars out of five for an adult occupant and four for a child – and the glassy cabin and boot are capacious. Ride quality and handling is also balanced to suit buyers who want an A-to-B motor at the best possible price.

Nevertheless, this is cheap but not cheerful motoring and, as ever, a tempting base price aims to get people signed up for higher-spec yet still modestly-priced versions.

Starting at just £600 more, mid-range Ambiance trim delivers not only what we now expect, such as radio/CD-player, remote central locking, electric front windows and body-coloured bumpers and wheel trims but also bonuses such as remote controls for the sound system, plus USB and AUX inputs and Bluetooth. The interior also looks less basic, though most materials in the Sandero are durable rather than luxurious.

But Dacia reckons most buyers will opt for Lauréate flagship models, from £7,995, equipped with air-con, cruise-control and electric windows all round, though you pay extra for alloys.

However, the Sandero's hitherto untouchable pricing then starts running into real competition, such as the ageing but well-organised and specified Perodua Myvi – previously seen here as the Daihatsu Sirion – Kia Picanto, Hyundai i10 and those thoroughly modern city-car clones, the VW Up, Skoda Citigo and Seat Mii.

Most are still dearer on a spec comparison but deliver more sophistication, as indeed a nearly-new rival might also do for similar money. The Kia and Hyundai also have gold-plated warranties – though extensions to Dacia's standard three-year/60,000 miles are available and the brand already has a good international reputation for reliability.

In addition, Renault has endowed the newcomer with decent powertrains. I didn't test the entry-level 1.2-litre petrol, but the three-cylinder 0.9-litre TCe petrol turbo (from £7,395) is nippy if raucous and whiney.

The refined 1.5-litre diesel (from £8,395) is my best buy, though; diesels in small cars are normally a pet hate, but this unit's weight curbs the Sandero's slightly bouncy suspension and delivers a good balance of power and economy, while low CO_2 emissions make it road tax- and congestion charge-exempt.

CHEAPEST THERE IS: Officially the cheapest new car available on the UK market, the Access entry-level Sandero, left, starts at £5,995 and has no radio, but carmaker Dacia reckons most buyers will opt for the Lauréate flagship models, top

DON'T LIKE

... the basic Access model; £5,995 will get people looking, but they might be better off spending the same on a quality used car with decent spec.

NOT SURE

... many people will be fooled by that silly asking price, but will they then realise that paying for more spec means they could afford a good rival?

REALLY LIKE

... what may become the 'Sandero effect' – a spate of bargain-priced, well-equipped small cars to reflect these cash-strapped times.

Honda signals its intent in SUV sector with new-look 4G CR-V

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IN an effort to distance itself from the old gas-guzzling image of SUVs or pseudo off-roaders, Honda veered off track with the previous CR-V.

What we got was a mish-mash design like a jacked-up family hatchback that looked neither elegant nor practical.

That it sold well just goes to show that beauty really is in the eye of the beholder.

Still, the Japanese marque we Brits love to love – with key models made in the UK at Swindon and taking perennial star billing in customer-satisfaction or reliability polls – has produced a real crowd-pleaser this time.

The fourth-generation CR-V launched late last year is both stylish and practical without lurching back towards the boxy off-roader looks of its earliest forebears; in other words, a thoroughly modern-looking SUV to rival the new Mazda CX-5, Hyundai Sante Fe and models from the German premium marques.

There is a bold chrome front grille and classy profile adding style to a typically tough SUV look, but the high-riding stance belies easy access to both the cabin and boot; the latter is one of the biggest in this class and sits at a particularly handy height, with load-cramming aided by easy-flip back seats and – fitted as standard on flagship EX models – a powered lift-up tailgate.

A sign of the CR-V's prestige in the marketplace is that EX is the most popular trim, with the153bhp 2.2-litre diesel manual version tested here being the top seller in the CR-V line-up.

It is easy to understand why.

For a start, it looks good value at a shade under £31,000 with full leather seats, that power tailgate, integrated sat-nav, keyless access, alloy door treads, electric driver's seat and memory settings and a panoramic glass roof to enhance an already airy cabin.

That's over and above some generous lower-trim levels; Honda has never been tight-fisted here, but it looks like it is heeding the threat from well-specc'd Korean-built rivals from Kia, Hyundai and Chevrolet.

The cabin itself is not particularly showy, but there is a real longevity and good sense about the materials and layout, with an excellent driving position and good views, though I thought the door pockets a bit miserly.

Behind the wheel you soon realise that Honda has not just taken note of the Marmite – love it or hate it – nature of the previous car's looks but also its lack-lustre driving appeal.

The new car manages to balance handling and comfort far better. Let's face it, nobody really buys an SUV and expects GTi handling, but the CR-V holds the corners well without leaning as before, yet ride quality is far better and only occasionally struggles on winter-scarred rural roads.

Refinement is also good. The car feels well made and safe and running costs should also be modest for this class, with Honda reliability a given, while a big 'Econ' button on the dashboard helps you stay sensible on fuel consumption by making use of stop/start and an economy gearshift indicator.

The tried-and-tested 2.2-litre Honda diesel also reminds you how smooth and quiet it is while still offering lots of low-down grunt.

The first CR-V was one of the original 'soft-roaders' and the new 4x4 versions remain capable on slippery and muddy surfaces, even if ground clearance is modest.

However, along with several other manufacturers, Honda has recognised austere times and sensitivity about emissions has finally paved the way for front-wheel-drive-only models, which keep entry level prices sensible, too, starting at £21,395, though 4x4s also look good value from £22,495.

HONDA CR-V 2.2 i-DTEC EX 4WD: PRICE ££30,995

LESSONS LEARNED: Honda has taken note of the threat posed by rivals Kia, Chevrolet and Hyundai and given the new CR-V a better trim level than the three previous models as well improving the car's handling

FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Road tax:	£170
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MOTORING NEWS

Fiat 500 grows into new MPV

FIAT has extended its popular 500 family – but the Italian brand's newcomer looks like a distant cousin.

The 500L might have the 'nose and eyes' of the big-selling 500, but there the resemblance ends; the rest of the car balloons into a capacious yet compact MPV that handles and rides smoothly and has a glassy cabin.

Prices start at £14,990.

Baby Czech is going sporty

SKODA has added a sharp-suited Sport version to its Citigo city-car line-up.

Selling as a spacious three- or five-door, with the entry-level one-litre 60PS (59bhp) petrol engine and priced from £10,290, the new variant wears black 15-inch 'Auriga' alloys, fog lights, tinted windows, lowered sports suspension, spoilers, rear diffuser and a broad racing stripe front to back.

Choices for new Golf GTI

THOSE charismatic letters 'GTI' are back for the latest-generation VW Golf line-up but with two power options for the first time: the 218bhp 220PS GTI and the GTI Performance with 230 PS (228bhp).

Prices are to be confirmed, but order books open on Tuesday, March 26.

Despite their performance orientation, both variants have a fuel- and emissions-saving Stop/Start system.

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Motability: the great revolution

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MOTABILITY has radically changed the way that disabled people and their families can live their lives.

The Government-backed scheme enables them to drive for much less than it would cost them to buy or lease a new or nearly-new car privately and helps with potentially-costly adaptations for controls or wheelchair access.

On top of that, the scheme's regular payments can take care of everyday running costs; from insurance, maintenance and repairs to breakdown assistance – a huge reassurance when the cost of motoring is soaring.

What is more, Motability does not insist the disabled person is the driver; the car is made available for the benefit of that person, which means that up to two other named drivers can be on the car's insurance cover instead of the disabled person.

For more about this liberating scheme for disabled people, see inside this special supplement.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY: Thanks to Motability, car-buyers with disabilities have the same range of choices as any able-bodied person, from the economy of a supermini to the practicality of a capacious MPV – or even the flexibility of a fashionable SUV like the Hyundai ix35 pictured here

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Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people

Fuel consumption and CO_2 figures for the Volvo range in mpg (l/100 km): Urban 18.6 (15.2) - 70.6 (4.0), Extra Urban 34.9 (8.1) - 85.6 (3.3), Combined 26.4 (10.6) - 78.5 (3.6). CO Emissions 249 - 94g/km.

Offer available to Motability customers only. Offer valid from to .

MOTABILITY

drive24.co.uk Powered by motors.co.uk

A new lease of life thanks to Motability

UNTIL the 1970s, only disabled people who could drive themselves received any Government help with transport.

And this was usually a notoriously unstable blue three-wheeler with room for the driver only – not much use for families.

It all changed in 1978, with the launch of the Government-backed Motability charity, which calculated an allowance that disabled people could use towards a vehicle of their choice, removing the stigma of the blue 'Invacar' – finally outlawed from UK roads in 2003 – and also opening up transport to people who relied on others to drive them.

Since then, more than three million cars, scooters and powered wheelchairs have been sourced through Motability, allowing disabled people to go shopping, do voluntary work, visit friends, go to the doctor, do sport, give a family member a lift or go on holiday – all things that the motoring majority tends to take for granted.

Some users have even been able to take up further education or pursue better jobs and careers, having been liberated hugely by their new-found mobility.

The scheme was modified earlier last year, though, to both streamline the procedures and prevent some misuse creeping into the system.

The key points were:

- The list of cars available has now been streamlined.
- Nominated drivers must live at or within five miles of the applicant's address, though special circumstances will still be considered.
- Drivers under 25 are restricted to cars with an insurance group of 16 or lower and with a power output of 115bhp or less
- Drivers under 21 are only permitted to drive Motability vehicles where they live with the disabled customer.

ON THE ROAD: Clockwise from top left... all types of vehicle are available to Motability, from MPVs like Renault's Scenic or the family hatchback Hyundai i30, estate pictured, to a coupé like the Peugeot RCZ

SIMPLY CLEVER

ŠKODA

The ŠKODA range is available from £0 advance payment at Motorline ŠKODA

Citigo from £0 ADVANCE PAYMENT
Fabia from £0 ADVANCE PAYMENT
Roomster from £0 ADVANCE PAYMENT
Octavia from £TBC ADVANCE PAYMENT
Yeti from £95 ADVANCE PAYMENT
Superb from £1,195 ADVANCE PAYMENT

WORRY-FREE MOTORING ASSURED

With a new Motability car, all this is included

- Use your mobility allowance
- Breakdown recovery
- Road tax and insurance
- Servicing and maintenance
- 60,000 mileage allowance
- Specialist advice

Not sure if you qualify for a Motability car? Call 0800 953 4002

Motability
motability.co.uk

Motorline ŠKODA Dartford 555 Princess Road, Kent DA2 6HH 0843 658 2618 www.motorline.co.uk/skoda
Motorline ŠKODA Canterbury Westminster Road, Vauxhall Industrial Estate, Kent CT1 1YY 0843 658 2604 www.motorline.co.uk/skoda

To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of the higher lease mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement. Advance Payment (APR) valid for applications to Motability for 1st January to 31st March 2013. Models shown are Citigo SC 3-Dr 1.0 MPI 60PS Sport Manual at £0 AP. Shown with Style Pack 2, Winter Pack and optional metallic paint. Fabia Hatch Elegance 1.2 12V 60PS at £0 AP inc metallic paint. Shown with optional 16" Tibar alloy wheels (£120). Roomster SE 1.2 TSI 86PS at £0 AP inc metallic paint. Shown with optional 15" Aktor alloy wheels (£120). 80PS silver roof rails (£175.08) and front fog lights (£170.80). Octavia Hatch Elegance 1.4 TSI 122PS at £95 AP inc metallic paint. Yeti Elegance 1.2 TSI 105PS at £95 AP inc metallic paint. Shown with optional silver roof rails (£68.08). Superb Hatch 1.8 TSI 152PS at £1,195 AP inc metallic paint. Models shown varies from UK specification.

Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 83.1 (3.4). CO_2 emissions 237 – 89 g/km.

MOTABILITY

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Motability's 2013 price list unveiled

NO ONE can accuse Motability of lagging behind the times.

Some of the newest cars on the market are included in the latest price list of some 2,000 cars that disabled motorists can enjoy within the scheme's agreed financial parameters.

Within that overall list there are also about 450 vehicles requiring no advance payment, including the newly-launched and highly-customisable Vauxhall Adam 1.2 Jam.

There are also more than 400 cars available for an under-£500 advance payment.

In addition, the scheme offers 500 automatic models, with more than 50 available to lease with no advance payment, such as the Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Exclusiv, with front and rear parking sensors.

Other automatics available with no advance payment include the Peugeot 3008 Crossover 1.6TD Active diesel and Hyundai i30 1.6 Active with rear parking sensors.

Mike Betts, Motability Operations chief executive, said: "We strive to offer our customers a wide range of affordable and reliable vehicles to choose from. Our first pricing list for 2013 includes new models and firm favourites, as well as automatics and fuel-efficient diesels.

"This means our customers can feel assured that they can get out and about in 2013 in a car that suits their needs."

Further highlights of the new price list from Motability include the:

- Rugged-looking and roomy Skoda Yeti 1.2 S SUV – available for a £95 advance payment.
- Fuel-sipping diesel Volvo V40 1.6TD SE – for a £499 advance payment.

Motability also offers more than 500 Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles and drive-from wheelchair options.

REAL DEALS: No advance payment is needed on a Peugeot 3008 automatic, while the Vauxhall Adam, top, and the Volvo V40 make Motability's list

Models shown: ix20 Active 1.6 auto in Ice Blue metallic paint with nil advance payment. ix35 Style 1.6 GDi in Sleek Silver metallic paint with £499 advance payment. To qualify for the Motability offer you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement. Offers are subject to acceptance of Motability application. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. Full written details, including terms and conditions, of the Motability Scheme are available on request from Motability. Please note 60,000 miles over 3 years are allowed on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai ix20 Active 1.6 Auto: Urban 34.0 (8.3), Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5), Combined 43.6 (6.5), CO_2 Emissions 154 g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai ix35 Style 1.6 GDi: Urban 34.4 (8.2), Extra Urban 47.1 (6.0), Combined 41.5 (6.8), CO_2 Emissions 158 g/km.

MOTABILITY

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THE CHOICE IS ALL YOURS: You can have practicality and style with a variety of estate cars including the Skoda Superb... or be prepared for the bad weather by picking a 4x4 SUV like the latest Honda CR-V

Motability: the facts

UP TO two nominated drivers can drive a Motability vehicle, but the disabled person qualifying for the scheme does not have to be one of them.

The drivers may be friends or relatives, and parents or carers can apply on behalf of a child aged three years or older.

The car only has to be used for the benefit of the disabled person, such as a shopping trip or collecting a prescription – they don't even have to be in the car. A third insured driver can be added for a small payment.

If you receive the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, you can apply for a Motability lease by exchanging part or all of that allowance.

Motability is a worry-free package that includes:

- A choice of some 2,000 car models
- Insurance, servicing and maintenance
- RAC breakdown assistance
- Road tax
- Tyre and windscreen replacement
- 60,000-mileage allowance over three years

Car dimensions vary: seat height, door-opening angle and storage space for wheelchairs and equipment can all affect whether the car works for you and your particular disability or not, but your local dealer can take you through a questionnaire designed to ensure that the car and Motability is right for you.

Many special adaptations are available free to help with speed and steering, signalling and safety, stowage and seating and access.

The Motability package continues to the end of your three-year lease, with a seamless transfer to your new car. About 600,000 customers choose Motability and 97 per cent say they would recommend the scheme to their friends.

Great Motability offers from Peugeot

3008 ACCESS 1.6 HDi 115
£299 ADVANCE PAYMENT
• Split tailgate and multiflex interior
• 5* Euro NCAP safety rating
• Air-conditioning

NEW **208** ACTIVE 1.4 VTi
NIL ADVANCE PAYMENT
• Multi-function colour touchscreen • 3 or 5 door
• Bluetooth® & USB • Air-conditioning
• 15" Alloy wheels • Cruise control and speed limiter

PEUGEOT **3008** ACCESS / **208** ACTIVE

The new Peugeot 208, winner of the Auto Express award for best Supermini 2012 is now available through Motability with NIL advance payment. Or choose the versatile Peugeot 3008, Crossover of the Year 2011 for an advance payment of just £299. You'll even get insurance, breakdown cover, servicing and maintenance included for 3 years. Contact us today to find out more.

MOTION & EMOTION

PEUGEOT

ROBINS & DAY MAIDSTONE
Mill Street, MAIDSTONE, ME15 6YD Tel: 01622 753333
www.robinsandday-maidstone.co.uk

ROBINS & DAY ROCHESTER
209 High Street, ROCHESTER, ME1 1HF Tel: 01634 842231
www.robinsandday-rochester.co.uk

The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km) for the 208 range: Urban 34.9 – 78.4 (8.1 – 3.6), Extra Urban 62.8 – 88.2 (4.5 – 3.2), Combined 48.7 – 83.0 (5.8 – 3.4) and CO_2 135 – 87; 3008 range: Urban 28.4 – 48.1 (9.4 – 5.8), Extra Urban 50.4 – 65.9 (5.5 – 4.4), Combined 39.7 – 57.7 (7.1 – 4.9), CO_2 169 – 129.

*Nil advance payment subject to availability and on selected 208 models only. Information and offers correct at time of going to press, however Peugeot Motor Company PLC reserve the right to change these at any time and without notice. Models shown are for illustrative purposes only. For full terms and conditions, please contact the Peugeot Motability line on 0845 945 5466. Calls may be recorded for training purposes.

Motability offers you the ability to enjoy worry-free motoring

A new car every 3 years

Breakdown cover and insurance included

To find out how Motability can help you, talk to our specialist today.

Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people

MOTABILITY

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Picking the right car – made easy

SURF'S UP: Motability.co.uk's search function makes it easier to decide whether a small supermini/MPV like the Honda Jazz, pictured right, is best for you, or a larger people-carrier such as the Vauxhall Zafira Tourer, above

MOTABILITY'S range of vehicle choice – 2,128 at present – can be both exciting and a worry.

Fortunately, the scheme's newly-updated website has a search function allowing users to create a line-up of comparable vehicles or a short-list, taking account of buying parameters mixing typical consumer searches and the specialist needs of Motability users.

Search by car details takes a consumer-style approach and includes:

- What kind of mobility allowance the user has
- What level of advance payment the user intends to pay, if anything
- Preferred car type, make, model and number of doors
- Whether the user specifically wants a manual, semi-automatic or automatic gearbox
- Whether the driver is under 25

But there are two other search programmes: Search By Accessibility Needs, taking account of car measurements, and Search For A Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV)

There is also excellent advice on what type of car to look for, in language more relevant to disabled users, such as:

- How smaller two- to three-door cars generally have wider doors with larger opening angles that may make access easier but be harder to close generally and harder to open wide in narrow parking spaces.
- How hatchbacks have a raise-up rear door or 'hatch', which could make it harder for a wheelchair-user to open/close or access items or simply be problematic when opening in the garage.
- Extra space in estate cars can be more convenient for a disabled person as the load area may be used to carry disability aids, but the vehicles can be longer and bulkier

www.renault.co.uk

NEW **RENAULT CLIO**

REIGNITE YOUR VA VA VOOM

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN AN UNFORGETTABLE WEEKEND IN PARIS†

ALL-NEW ENERGY-EFFICIENT ENGINES UP TO 88.3MPG

£NIL ADVANCE PAYMENT

Car shown is a New Clio Dynamique S MediaNav TCe 90 S&S from £350 advance payment

Motability™

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MAIDSTONE ME15 9XY
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CANTERBURY CT1 1YY
TEL 0844 822 7100

MOTORLINE ASHFORD
HILTON ROAD,
ASHFORD TN23 1EW
TEL 0844 822 7094

WWW.MOTORLINE.CO.UK/RENAULT

RENAULT

The official consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the New Clio core range are: Urban 40.4 (7)–78.5 (3.6); Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7)–94.2 (3.0); Combined 51.4 (5.5)–88.3(3.2). The official CO_2 emissions for the range are 127–83g/km.

Advance payment offers are only valid for Motability applications to 31st March 2013 and are correct at time of going to press. The Motability logo is a trademark of Motability. Registered charity number 299745. †Unforgettable weekend in Paris prize draw for two is restricted to one entry per person, per household. Package includes transport, two nights 5-star accommodation, breakfast each morning, dinner for one night at the Jules Verne Restaurant at the Eiffel Tower, 100 hotel spa voucher, 750 spending money and travel insurance. No cash alternative. This prize draw is open to those aged 18 or over. It is not open to employees (and their families) of Renault UK Ltd, their suppliers, agents, third parties, employees of authorised Renault Dealerships or anyone professionally connected with this promotion. This promotion closes on 31 March 2013. Promoter: Renault UK Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Maple Cross, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 9YS. For full terms and conditions visit www.renault.co.uk/win.

MOTABILITY

drive24.co.uk Powered by motors.co.uk

WHAT'S IT TO BE? A 4x4 SUV, like the Skoda Yeti, perhaps, left... or a racy little supermini like the latest Renault Clio, far left, hot on the streets

Our tips on how to start narrowing down your choice of Motability car

So where to start?

SMALL CARS

TEND to have lower advance payments, running costs and CO_2 emissions than larger vehicles. Two- to three-door cars generally have wider doors with larger opening angles.

These may make access easier, but closing the door and fitting in narrow parking spaces may be harder, while four- to five-door cars benefit from superior back-seat access – useful if you often have more than one passenger.

MEDIUM CARS

ARE often sold as hatchbacks and will have a slightly bigger boot than a standard small car. The same doors argument applies as for small cars.

FAMILY CARS

FAMILY cars are large four-door saloons or five-door hatchbacks and are considerably larger than medium-sized cars.

Hatchbacks usually have more boot capacity.

ESTATE CARS

USUALLY longer than a standard saloon or hatchback, with useful space for mobility aids in the boot, but this can add to the car's bulk, so make sure you check it out with a test drive before committing.

MULTI-PURPOSE VEHICLES (MPV)

RANGING from small to large, MPVs can seat up to nine people. The seats are higher, with more headroom, legroom and width.

Some have large sliding side doors.

4X4 AND SPORT UTILITY VEHICLES (SUV)

THE term '4x4' is usually used to describe vehicles designed for off-road use, which generally have higher ground clearance.

Until recently, all 4x4s had four-wheel drive, but many people buy for the SUV styling and opt for a front-wheel-drive-only version to save fuel.

COUPÉS, ROADSTERS AND CABRIOLETS

COUPÉS are small and sporty-looking, seating either two or four people, but may be compromised for disabled users due to their two-door format, cramped seating and smaller boots.

WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES (WAV)

WAVS are cars converted to carry passengers travelling in their wheelchair or those who wish to drive from a wheelchair.

WAVs may be best if you have trouble getting in and out of the car from your wheelchair and would prefer to remain in it when travelling as a passenger.

WAVs come in different sizes and have many standard features. The Motability website has a specific WAV Search.

Models shown: ix20 Active 1.6 auto in Ice Blue metallic paint with nil advance payment. ix35 Style 1.6 GDi in Sleek Silver metallic paint with £299 advance payment. To qualify for the Motability offer you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement. Offers are subject to acceptance of Motability application. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. Full written details, including terms and conditions, of the Motability Scheme are available on request from Motability. Please note 60,000 miles over 3 years are allowed on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme.

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Motability offers you the ability to enjoy worry-free motoring.

Brand New Vauxhall Astra

Brand New Vauxhall Astra GTC

Brand New Chevrolet Aveo

Brand New Chevrolet Cruze Auto SW

Breakdown cover and insurance included

A new car every 3 years

all from NIL ADVANCE PAYMENT

Motability

F.G.Barnes

Sutton Road, Parkwood Estate
Maidstone ME15 9FB
Telephone: 08442 475 302
www.fgbarnes.co.uk

CHEVROLET

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall Range (excluding Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) – 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) – 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) – 85.6 (3.3), CO_2 emissions: 324 – 88g/km. Chevrolet Range: Urban: 13.5 (20.9) – 67.2 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.6 (10.2) – 85.6 (3.3), Combined: 20.0 (14.1) – 78.4 (3.6). CO_2 emissions: 329-95g/km.

Cars shown for illustration purposes only. Terms & conditions apply. Ask for details.

ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

MOTABILITY helps disabled people with their personal mobility, giving them a freedom which they may not otherwise be able to access.

At Sherlodge Garage ŠKODA we support this vision wholeheartedly and work with Motability to ensure that your car shopping experience is as friendly, informative and supportive as possible.

With Motability and Sherlodge Garage, you get a whole host of benefits such as:

- Insurance, servicing and maintenance
- Full RAC breakdown assistance
- Annual tax disc
- Tyre and windscreen replacement
- 60,000 miles allowance over three years
- Many adaptations at no extra cost

And you don't have to drive – you can nominate up to two other drivers and pay a little extra for a third.

Sherlodge Garage is a family run business, based in Gillingham, near Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre. We take our community values very seriously and will always work with you to find the best car for your needs and budget.

We are also focused on exceptional customer service, and proud that so many existing customers return time and time again for our honest and professional approach.

We recently refurbished our service and parts department to offer even better aftercare of your vehicle, and expanded our sales force to eight experienced and helpful staff. However, it's not just us who have grown over recent years: ŠKODA's model count is now seven, including the new ŠKODA Octavia, launched on March 16.

Why not pop down to the showroom that day from 7.30pm and join our casino night launch celebration, with games, refreshments and competitions, including a prize draw that could win you the holiday of a lifetime(for full terms & conditions go to www.newoctaviafromskoda.co.uk/sherlodge).

If the Octavia is not for you, then there is another ŠKODA to suit your Motability budget and needs.

For instance, the baby of the family, the Citigo, has a five-star NCAP safety rating and is available with a zero advance payment with highly affordable monthly payments, or there's the more spacious Roomster, also with zero advance payment.

Whatever your Motability needs, for more information please go to www.sherlodgegarageskoda.co.uk/motability, or pop into the showroom for a cup of tea and a chat.

SIMPLY CLEVER

ŠKODA

The ŠKODA range is available from £0 advance payment at Sherlodge Garage

Citigo from	Fabia from	Roomster from	Octavia from	Yeti from	Superb from
£0 ADVANCE PAYMENT	£0 ADVANCE PAYMENT	£0 ADVANCE PAYMENT	£TBC ADVANCE PAYMENT	£95 ADVANCE PAYMENT	£1,195 ADVANCE PAYMENT

WORRY-FREE MOTORING ASSURED

With a new Motability car, all this is included

- Use your mobility allowance
- Breakdown recovery
- Road tax and insurance
- Servicing and maintenance
- 60,000 mileage allowance
- Specialist advice

Not sure if you qualify for a Motability car? Call 0800 953 4002

Motability
motability.co.uk

Sherlodge Garage 26 Hoath Lane, Wigmore, Gillingham, Kent ME8 0SW **0843 320 1667** **www.kentskoda.co.uk**

Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 83.1 (3.4). CO_2 emissions 237 – 89 g/km.

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THE NEW SCHOOL AT WEST HEATH SEVENOAKS

"Rebuilding lives through education"

Principal & Chief Executive: Mrs Christina Wells (BA Hons.)

The New School at West Heath is a Specialist Independent residential School catering for a diverse range of needs for boys and girls age 10- 19, many of whom have emotional and social communication difficulties. We are based in Sevenoaks in Kent.

We are a great team, and together with our therapeutic and academic approach we are able to achieve great things for our students. As a team we share a real desire to set a new, even higher standard of care in education and you can help us achieve this goal. The School has approval status from the DfCS and has an excellent rapport with both parents and the Local Authorities.

Please see our website for Ofsted and Investors in People reports

We are looking to appoint enthusiastic, flexible and innovative **Full Time Teachers**
We offer Teacher rates of pay (Fringe) and SEN allowance

• FACULTY LEADER of MATHS - L1 to L6 • FACULTY LEADER OF ENGLISH - L1 to L6
• CATERING TEACHER - M1 to M6 + SEN

All posts are from September 2013
The successful candidates will have the following:

- excellent specialist subject knowledge and skills and experience of teaching effectively up to GCSE and A level
- develop an innovative and creative learning environment
- have the ability work effectively within a team
- teach across ability range in KS3 & KS4
- the commitment to pursue opportunities for CPD

Application form, Job Descriptions and for further details about our school please visit our website on **www.westheathschool.com** or contact Lynne McGrath on **lynne.mcgrath@westheathschool.com** or tel 01732 460 553

Closing date for applications is 15th March 2013

The successful applicants will be subject to an Enhanced CRB check.

The New School at West Heath is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Carers' Support Dover District & Thanet

Supporting those who care for a relative or friend

2 x Carer Support Workers

Starting salary £18,200 - £19,500 per annum 37.5 hrs per week
One year fixed term (with possibility to extend)

Administrator

Starting salary £19,000 -£22,000 per annum 37.5 hrs per week
One year fixed term (with possibility to extend)

We are one of the lead members of the East Kent Carers' Consortium and have recently been awarded the contract to deliver services to Carers across the Dover District, Thanet and Canterbury & Coastal areas from April 2013. We must meet the requirements of a demanding service specification. This is an exciting time for us and we are looking to recruit some additional staff to help us rise to the challenges we face.

We are committed to providing consistently high quality support and advice services (both practical and emotional), to Carers across our area, and to reaching Carers who may face particular problems in finding the help they need to carry on caring.

Carer Support Worker: We are looking for a confident, versatile, sensitive and articulate person who will work with us to support Carers and to develop and deliver new services across the localities. Your main role will be to provide support and information to Carers on the phone or to those calling in at our Carers' Centre. You will also liaise with other agencies, make and take referrals, facilitate, develop and deliver outreach services and events.

This position is mainly office based, however you will be required to travel outside the office to attend meetings, complete one to one Carer's Assessments in clients' homes, to deliver outreach services and represent the organisation at external events. A full driving licence and your own transport are essential.

Administrator: We are looking for an experienced Administrator to be a key figure in supporting the C.E.O. and the Deputy in the smooth running of the organisation. You will need to be an enthusiastic and motivated person with excellent literacy and numeracy skills. The ideal candidate will have an excellent working knowledge of SAGE and Excel.

For an application pack, please write to:

Tricia Cole CEO
Carers' Support - Dover District & Thanet
80 Middle Street, Deal, Kent CT14 6HL
or email: **tricia@carers-doverdistrict.org**

Closing date: For returned applications by 14th March 2013.
Interviews will be held on Thursday 21st March 2013.

Registered Charity No.1136904 Co Ltd by Guarantee no.7213672
KM CHARITY OF THE YEAR 2011 FOR THE DOVER DISTRICT

Experienced Part Time Stylist

required for maternity cover.
2½-3days a week in Gravesend area. Must have a minumum of 5 years shop experience. References Required.

Please call **Karen** on **01474 533978**

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F/T, P/T & Flexi hrs.

Application enquiry via **abbeyleas@gmail.com**
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Salary negotiable

Abbey Court School

"We grow people"

"An outstanding school"
(Ofsted July 2010 & October 2012)

We are currently looking for....

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

to join and enhance our large and expanding, high calibre team.

Medway Scale, Grade D2
£15,039 - £19,126 pro-rata
+ SEN Allowance (£1,177)

Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Can you make a difference? If so, share your talents and expertise with us.

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. Working hours are 32.5 p/w (8.45am - 3.45pm), term time only. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

Only those with childcare experience, or relevant childcare qualifications should apply.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to / telephone
(stating the role for which you are applying):

Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338236)

Please note CVs will not be accepted.

Closing date: 22.3.13

Bricklayers, Price Gangs & Site Foreperson

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Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

A-Level Chemistry Lecturer - Hourly Paid ***Ref: PO19***

Salary: £24.07 - £27.92
(Dependant on qualifications & experience)
Medway Campus

The College is looking for an excellent candidate to participate in the delivery of A' level Chemistry courses. The ideal candidate will have experience of teaching A level in an FE or Sixth Form environment and will have up to date and sound working knowledge of level 3 study with a track record of success. The successful candidate will have obtained a degree in chemistry and hold, or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Closing date: 15/03/2013

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

To apply for this position please contact job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

MidKent College

spencer private hospital

The Spencer Private Hospital is an independently owned and managed private hospital. We have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and a 22 bed unit situated on the QEQM Hospital site.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Staff Nurse (Margate)

1 Year contract (to cover Maternity Leave)
wef April 2013
Nights Only
30 hours per week

Closing date for applications
Friday 15 March 2013

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:

Mary Guarnieri, Matron - 01843 234252

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards
East Kent Medical Services Ltd
The Spencer Private Hospital
2nd Floor, Atina House
Bench Street
Dover
Kent CT16 1JH

Telephone: 01304 245951
Fax: 01304 207320

E-mail: jo.edwards@spencerhospitals.com

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer. This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

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Public Sector

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992 - COUNCIL TAX 2013/2014

In accordance with section 38(2) of the Act the Council gives notice of the amount of Council Tax set for each valuation band within its area for the financial year 2013/2014

PARISH	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
Aldington & Bonnington	956.85	1,116.32	1,275.80	1,435.27	1,754.22	2,073.17	2,392.12	2,870.54
Appledore	979.23	1,142.43	1,305.64	1,468.84	1,795.25	2,121.66	2,448.07	2,937.68
Bethersden	953.95	1,112.94	1,271.93	1,430.92	1,748.90	2,066.88	2,384.87	2,861.84
Biddenden	962.58	1,123.01	1,283.44	1,443.87	1,764.73	2,085.59	2,406.45	2,887.74
Bilsington	948.97	1,107.13	1,265.29	1,423.45	1,739.77	2,056.09	2,372.42	2,846.90
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	945.07	1,102.59	1,260.10	1,417.61	1,732.63	2,047.66	2,362.68	2,835.22
Brabourne	951.31	1,109.87	1,268.42	1,426.97	1,744.07	2,061.18	2,378.28	2,853.94
Brook	957.09	1,116.61	1,276.12	1,435.64	1,754.67	2,073.70	2,392.73	2,871.28
Challock	958.69	1,118.48	1,278.26	1,438.04	1,757.60	2,077.17	2,396.73	2,876.08
Charing	972.74	1,134.86	1,296.99	1,459.11	1,783.36	2,107.60	2,431.85	2,918.22
Chilham	957.96	1,117.62	1,277.28	1,436.94	1,756.26	2,075.58	2,394.90	2,873.88
Crundale (PM)	936.57	1,092.66	1,248.76	1,404.85	1,717.04	2,029.23	2,341.42	2,809.70
Egerton	954.75	1,113.87	1,273.00	1,432.12	1,750.37	2,068.62	2,386.87	2,864.24
Godmersham	950.13	1,108.48	1,266.84	1,425.19	1,741.90	2,058.61	2,375.32	2,850.38
Great Chart with Singleton	954.79	1,113.93	1,273.06	1,432.19	1,750.45	2,068.72	2,386.98	2,864.38
Hastingleigh	952.23	1,110.94	1,269.64	1,428.35	1,745.76	2,063.17	2,380.58	2,856.70
High Halden	951.96	1,110.62	1,269.28	1,427.94	1,745.26	2,062.58	2,379.90	2,855.88
Hothfield	959.37	1,119.27	1,279.16	1,439.06	1,758.85	2,078.64	2,398.43	2,878.12
Kenardington	961.28	1,121.49	1,281.71	1,441.92	1,762.35	2,082.77	2,403.20	2,883.84
Kingsnorth	950.43	1,108.84	1,267.24	1,425.65	1,742.46	2,059.27	2,376.08	2,851.30
Little Chart	966.73	1,127.86	1,288.98	1,450.10	1,772.34	2,094.59	2,416.83	2,900.20
Mersham and Sevington	947.89	1,105.87	1,263.85	1,421.83	1,737.79	2,053.75	2,369.72	2,843.66
Molash	960.02	1,120.02	1,280.03	1,440.03	1,760.04	2,080.04	2,400.05	2,880.06
Newenden	967.28	1,128.49	1,289.71	1,450.92	1,773.35	2,095.77	2,418.20	2,901.84
Orlestone	951.25	1,109.80	1,268.34	1,426.88	1,743.96	2,061.05	2,378.13	2,853.76
Pluckley	971.02	1,132.86	1,294.69	1,456.53	1,780.20	2,103.88	2,427.55	2,913.06
Rolvenden	955.26	1,114.47	1,273.68	1,432.89	1,751.31	2,069.73	2,388.15	2,865.78
Ruckinge	953.83	1,112.80	1,271.77	1,430.74	1,748.68	2,066.62	2,384.57	2,861.48
Shadoxhurst	951.01	1,109.51	1,268.01	1,426.51	1,743.51	2,060.51	2,377.52	2,853.02
Smarden	963.15	1,123.68	1,284.20	1,444.73	1,765.78	2,086.83	2,407.88	2,889.46
Smeeth	951.25	1,109.80	1,268.34	1,426.88	1,743.96	2,061.05	2,378.13	2,853.76
Stanhope	944.55	1,101.97	1,259.40	1,416.82	1,731.67	2,046.52	2,361.37	2,833.64
Stone	948.59	1,106.69	1,264.79	1,422.89	1,739.09	2,055.29	2,371.48	2,845.78
Tenterden (TC)	995.17	1,161.04	1,326.90	1,492.76	1,824.48	2,156.21	2,487.93	2,985.52
Warehorne	945.97	1,103.64	1,261.30	1,418.96	1,734.28	2,049.61	2,364.93	2,837.92
Westwell	967.22	1,128.42	1,289.63	1,450.83	1,773.24	2,095.64	2,418.05	2,901.66
Wittersham	960.07	1,120.09	1,280.10	1,440.11	1,760.13	2,080.16	2,400.18	2,880.22
Woodchurch	951.66	1,110.27	1,268.88	1,427.49	1,744.71	2,061.93	2,379.15	2,854.98
Wye with Hinxhill	971.99	1,133.99	1,295.99	1,457.99	1,781.99	2,105.99	2,429.98	2,915.98
Unparished Area	935.10	1,090.95	1,246.80	1,402.65	1,714.35	2,026.05	2,337.75	2,805.30

In accordance with section 75(6) of the Local Government Act 2003 and section 12(6) of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 the Council gives notice of a determination of Council Tax discounts/premiums from 1 April 2013 as follows:

Second homes - dwellings which are normally unoccupied and furnished will receive a discount of 0%.

Empty properties - dwellings which are normally unoccupied and unfurnished for a period of 6 weeks or less will receive a discount of 100%.

Long term empty properties - dwellings which are normally unoccupied and unfurnished for a period of longer than 6 weeks but less than 2 years will receive a discount of 0%.

Long term empty properties - dwellings which are normally unoccupied and unfurnished for a period of longer than 2 years or more will receive a discount of 0% and have the Council Tax charged increased by 50%

Empty and unfurnished properties requiring or undergoing structural repair or alteration or major repair works will receive a discount of 100% for up to 12 months.

Local discount - exceptions to the above (as defined in the above Acts) and dwellings meeting locally defined criteria will receive a discount of 50%.

Dated 7th March 2013

T W Mortimer, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL

To advertise in this section

01303 817056

COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES

Members' Allowances Scheme 2013/14

In accordance with The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 No. 1021 Part 3 (16) the Council is required after making or amending a scheme to make arrangements for its publication. Full Council on 20 February 2013 considered the recommendations of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel and agreed an alternative lowest cost scheme from 2013/14 thereby complying with its duty under regulation 19. Full details are available on the Council's website www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk under part 7 of the Constitution. The basic and special responsibility allowances payable under the Members' Allowance Scheme for the financial year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 are as follows:

	Allowance (£)
Basic Allowance for all Councillors	5,500
Minority Group Leaders	275 per member (incl. leader)
Special Responsibility Allowances	
Leader	19,250
Cabinet Member	11,000
Chairman of Scrutiny Committee	1,375
Chairman of Licensing	1,375
Chairman of General Purposes	1,375
Chairman of Joint Transportation Board	1,375
Chairman of Audit & Governance Committee	1,375
Chairman of Planning Committee	5,500
Vice Chairman of Planning Committee	1,320
Other Allowances	
Co-opted Members and Independent Members of Audit & Governance Committee	800

The number of Special Responsibility Allowances and the overall cost of the scheme have been reduced.

Only one Special Responsibility Allowance may be claimed in addition to the Basic Allowance, except for Minority Group Leaders.

In accordance with Part 3 (13) of the Regulations any member may elect to forego all or part of his/her entitlement to allowances by notifying the Head of Finance and Governance.

In addition, the following travel and subsistence allowances are also payable under the Members' Allowances Scheme:-

Childcare and Dependent Carers' Allowance

An allowance for any approved duty of £6.19 per hour per child and £16.00 per hour respectively.

Travel Allowance Rates:

The motor vehicle mileage rates will be paid in accordance with the approved mileage rates published by HM Revenues and Customs. The current rates are as follows:

	First 10,000 business miles in a tax year	Each business mile over 10,000 in a tax year
Cars and vans	45p	25p
Motor cycles	24p	24p
Bicycles	20p	20p

Re-imbursement will be limited to comparable costs of using public transport where the Head of Finance and Governance determines that public transport was a practical alternative. Travel by Bus, Rail and Taxi will be the actual standard fare paid.

Subsistence Allowances:

Rates are those published by the South East Employers for 2010/11 and frozen. Re-imbursement is upon submission of a receipt up to a maximum of:-

Breakfast £6.88
Lunch £9.50
Dinner £11.76
Accommodation: reasonable actual cost

Paper copies of any of the above documents can also be provided by contacting Democratic Services, on 01892 554219. These documents can also be viewed during office hours at the Gateway customer centre in Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells.

Lee M. Colyer CPFA
Head of Finance & Governance (s151 Officer)
Town Hall
Royal Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN1 1RS

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Notice of application for renewal of a Sex Establishment Licence pursuant to Schedule 3 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

TAKE NOTICE that on 4th March 2013 James Pemble applied to Maidstone Borough Council for the renewal of a sex establishment licence in respect of

Players Gentlemen's Club, 57, High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1SY

DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION: Mondays to Sundays inclusive from 19.00 to 02.00 hours and on New Year's Eve - 19.00- 03.00

ACTIVITY: sexual entertainment venue

The application may be inspected at the offices of the Licensing Department, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ

ANY PERSON wishing to make objections on the application shall do so in writing at the Council Offices to the Senior Licensing Officer, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ or by e-mail at licensing@maidstone.gov.uk. The grounds of the objection must be stated in general terms. The objection must be received by the Council no later than 25th March 2013.

Name: James Pemble
Organisation: Players,
Address: 57, High Street, MAIDSTONE, KENT ME14 1SY
Date: 4th March 2013

PUBLIC NOTICE

LICENSING ACT 2003

Variation of Premises Licence

We John Meredith Freeman and Julie Reeman hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ for variation of a premises license for the following licensable activities;

1. To extend the provision of late night refreshment from 23:45 hours to 00:45 hours daily.
2. To extend the provision of regulated entertainment to include provision of plays, live music and ant other similar forms of entertainment daily
3. To extend the provision of regulated entertainment to permit provision between 12.00 and 24.00 hours daily
4. To extend the hours for sale of alcohol from 23.00 hours to 24.00 daily and
5. To extend the opening hours from 24.00 hours to 01.00.00 daily
6. To extend the hours for all licensable activities until 02.00 and opening hours until 02.30 0n New Year's Eve.

In respect of the premises situated at Pilgrims Way, Thurnham, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3LD and known by the sign of The Pilgrim Suite. The application can be viewed at the offices of the Licensing Authority, Maidstone Borough Council ,Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m - Monday to Friday except public holidays) www.maidstone.gov.uk

Interested parties and responsible authorities may make representation concerning this application in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later that 27th March 2013.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW solicitors,
8 Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent. ME19 5QP
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE
Call 01303 817056 www.kentnews.co.uk

PLANNING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

DA/98/331/MR28/R21 - Proposed development at Darenth Court Quarry, Darenth Road, Darenth, Dartford, Kent.

J Clubb Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for replacement of Ready Mix Concrete Plant pursuant to condition 21 of planning permission DA/98/331/MR28.

You may view this application at Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 10th March 2013

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PLANNING

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//13/00160/FUL: 40 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2RY Insertion of door at entrance to alleyway. **Applicant: Universities Superannuation Scheme Ltd** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/00162/LB: 40 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2RY Insertion of door at entrance to alleyway. **Applicant: Universities Superannuation Scheme Ltd** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
CA//13/00242/TPO: Tanglewood, Patrixbourne Road, Bridge, CT4 5BL To crown lift, remove ivy and to cut down to ground level identified trees, and plant replacements. **Applicant: Mr Spencer** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00246/FUL: 4 Albert Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HP Replacement of existing windows to front and rear of dwelling with double glazed wooden sash windows. **Applicant: Mr N Hill** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00279/FUL: 32 Island Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1EP Widening of rear annex and changing main roof to incorporate a loft conversion. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Cawthorne** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00344/LB: The Swan Inn, High Street, Sturry, CT2 0BD Internal alterations involving conversion of roofspace, installation of staircase, en-suite shower room, boiler room and lobby. **Applicant: Augustus Moon LLP** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//13/00354/ADV: 65-67 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AU Installation of two sets of logo and letters internally illuminated on fascia sign and internally illuminated projecting signs. **Applicant: Barclays Bank Plc** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00361/FUL: Salvation Army, White Horse Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2RU Removal of existing aluminium framed shop front and installation of new painted timber shop front with timber moulded stall riser. **Applicant: Property and Facilities Services** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00363/LB: Charlton Place, Charlton Park, Bishopsbourne, CT4 5JA Replacement of window with external door. **Applicant: Mrs Twigg** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//13/00364/LB Canterbury West Railway Station, Station Road West, Canterbury, CT2 8AN Retrospective listed building consent for the erection of a 52" LCD information screen. **Applicant: Network Rail** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
CA//13/00368/TAM: land outside of St Alphege School, Oxford Street, Whitstable Installation of telecommunications cabinet. **Applicant: Openreach** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00376/LB: The Old Harlotry, 66 Northgate, Canterbury, CT1 1BB Rebuilding of listed wall in car park to rear of property using existing materials. **Applicant: Mrs Litvack** Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 1 April 2013.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 8 March 2013

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Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
5. The application does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.
8. This application is accompanied as an Environmental Statement.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 25 MARCH 2013.

SW/13/0007:
Permanent change of use of land from agriculture to agriculture and seasonal use as a boot fair on Sundays and Bank Holidays between 1st March and 31st October - Land south of Leysdown Road (Caesar's Field), LEYSDOWN; **REASONS 3 & 4**

SW/13/0136:
Development of pre-delivery vehicle inspection centre through demolition of Rubb Tent Workshop and part of main workshop; erection of 5,182sqm extension to main workshop; erection of canopy to two sides of building; and refurbishment and alterations to workshop and compound - Park Central, Cullet Drive, QUEENBOROUGH; **REASON 3**

SW/13/0150:
Hip to gable roof extension - 36 Sandford Road, **SITTINGBOURNE; REASON 4**

SW/13/0190:
Single storey rear extension - 11 Forge Lane, **UPCHURCH; REASON 1**

SW/13/0215:
Construction of business park (use classes B1(B), B1(C), B2 and (B8), [research and development, light industrial, general industrial and storage or distribution], (up to a maximum of 43,000sqm), including associated accesses (including alteration to existing northern relief road), parking and servicing areas, landscaping, bunds, surface water storage area, and related development - Eurolink V / Land North of Swale Way, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASONS 2,3,5,6 & 8**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

To advertise in this section
01303 817056

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh
Shepway District Council
www.shepway.gov.uk

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/0127/SH* - 4 Defiant Close Hawkinge Kent CT18 7SU - Erection of a 3 storey mixed use block of 2 ground floor commercial units (Classes A1, A2, A3, B1) and 16 apartments above (alternative block 4 to that approved under Y10/0739/SH).

Y13/0149/SH - The Well House St Marys Road Elham Canterbury Kent - 5 metre reduction in height of 2 Conifer trees situated within a conservation area.

Y13/0101/SH - 45 The Street Hawkinge Folkestone Kent CT18 7DD - Listed building consent for installation of french doors to side (north) elevation.

Y13/0126/SH - Site of 1 Trinity Gardens Folkestone Kent - Installation of a telecommunications cabinet (telecommunication development 56 day notification).

Y13/0140/SH+ - 100 High Street Hythe Kent CT21 5LE - Retrospective application for consent to display an externally illuminated fascia sign.

Y13/0166/SH - 52 - 54 Guildhall Street Folkestone Kent CT20 1EE - Erection of a four-storey block fronting Guildhall Street with basement and upper floor set within roofspace comprising two retail shops (Class A1) and seven self-contained flats and erection of a four-storey block fronting St Eanswythes Way comprising seven self-contained flats, associated bicycle and bin store, following demolition of redundant shop (Resubmission of application Y11/0766/SH).

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

Town and Country Planning Acts
The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/00219/LBC **Fig Tree Cottage & Church Cottage The Green, Benenden**
- Listed Building Consent: Renewal of roof tiles, treat all wood rafters/beams etc, insulate roof, repair damaged/beetle infested timbers, renew hanging tiles to insulate timber panels and insert lead soakers etc. Replace window/door frames/casements, build new oak porch to replace existing softwood. Carry out repointing where necessary to external brickwork. New plastic guttering/down pipes. Carry out improvements to all electrics, plumbing and heating. Decorate external and internal (LB)

13/00334/HOUSE **Elmhurst Dundle Road, Brenchley**
- Recover roof with new tiles to match existing, incorporating two rooflights and insulation. Erect partitions to second floor and introduce sanitary fitings. Rearrange kitchen and playroom (LB)

13/00336/LBC **Elmhurst Dundle Road, Brenchley**
- Listed Building Consent: Recover roof with new tiles to match existing, incorporating two rooflights and insulation. Erect partitions to second floor and introduce sanitary fitings. Rearrange kitchen and playroom (LB)

13/00439/FUL **Sissinghurst Primary School The Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Partial demolition of redundant school buildings, change of use and conversion of former primary school to 3 residential units and community use hall and erection of 6 three bed terraced dwellings, parking barn and open parking facilities (CA) (LB)

13/00409/HOUSE **18 Molyneux Park Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- New dormer at rear (CA)

13/00442/HOUSE **4 Earls Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Infill rear corner of house at first floor level, provide half hipped roof and convert loft void to form habitable accommodation, two dormer windows and one roof window to rear roof slope (CA)

13/00410/HOUSE **Poundlands Farm Biddenden Road, Frittenden**
- Extension of Time: Demolition of former barracks building; Erection of single outbuilding containing garage/pool room and stables, outdoor swimming pool and tennis court with 2.75m high upvc covered chain link fence (TW/10/01276/HOUSE refers) (LB)

13/00459/LBC **Tower Cottage Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Demolish non-load bearing wall between kitchen & lounge; New insulated concrete ground in kitchen & lounge on damp proof membrane; Rebuild wall in same position off new dpc (LB)

13/00388/HOUSE **Dymoke Cottage Northgrove Road, Hawkhurst**
- Removal of Condition 4 of TW/10/02000/HOUSE - The annexe hereby permitted shall not be occupied at any time other than for purposes ancillary to the residential use of the dwelling known as Dymoke Cottage (CA) (LB)

13/00402/FUL **Remingtons Farm Land & Buildings Lamberhurst Road, Horsmonden**
- Demolition of hop picking machine shed. Change of use and conversion of oasthouse to dwelling including alterations to stowage roof, double pitch over main cooling floor, new fencing, gates and detached double garage and garden store (LB)

12/03498/FUL **The Vineyard The Down, Lamberhurst**
- Open sided detached outbuilding containing summer bar area (LB) (CA)

12/03515/LBC **The Vineyard The Down, Lamberhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Open sided detached outbuilding containing summer bar area (LB)

13/00257/OUTMJ **Charles Trent Ltd Willow Lane, Paddock Wood**
- Outline - Access and layout not reserved - residential development of existing car salvage/end of life vehicle processing and storage operation for Charles Trent Limited (DEVPLN) (MAJOR)

13/00320/FUL **Troika International 14B Chapel Place, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Change of use and conversion of first and second floor premises from offices to residential accommodation providing 1 x 2-bedroom flat and 2 x 1-bedroom flats (CA) (LB)

13/00363/LBC **1A, 1B, 1C Bedford Terrace Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent: Retention of flue and boiler overflow pipe (works already carried out). Relocation of gas pipes (LB)

13/00403/HOUSE **41B Broadwater Down Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Demolish existing garage and erect a single storey rear/side extension together with general alterations (CA)

13/00375/FULMJ **Notcutts Garden Centre Tonbridge Road, Pembury**
- Temporary garden centre building, external sales and display area and covered goods storage area required for 18 months to allow continued trading through construction of permanent new premises (DEVPLN) (MAJOR)

13/00414/FUL **Public Conveniences Pennington Road, Southborough Town Council**
- Change of use of public conveniences to A3 (CA)

13/00407/HOUSE **1 Holly Cottage Speldhurst Road, Speldhurst**
- Single-storey side extension (CA)

13/00426/HOUSE **The Oast House Lower Church Farm, Speldhurst**
- Demolition of garden shed and erection of double garage with log store (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 09 March 2013

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/2201/N - THE HARROW INN, THE STREET, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1DP - Conversion of existing A4 public house to C3 dwelling and A4 public house with erection of two storey extension to provide ancillary staff accommodation. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/2264/N - 32, HIGH STREET, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2QD - Listed building consent is sought for the installation of replacement timber windows, door and frames. **Reason: 2, 3**

MA/13/0203/N - PHILMARA, THE STREET, WORMSHILL, SITTINGBOURNE, KENT, ME9 0TU - Erection of a rear conservatory. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0235/S - TUTSHAM FARM, HUNT STREET, WEST FARLEIGH, KENT, ME15 0NE - Retrospective application for conversion of stable to a single live/work unit. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **24th March 2013**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 10th March 2013

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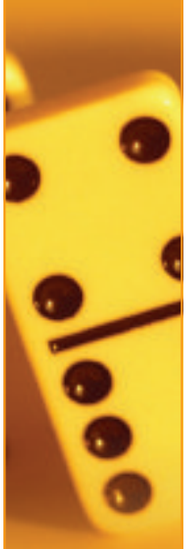

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH AW366 (PART) CHARING)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT
MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

On 14TH January 2013 The Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of that Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered AW366 which commences at NGR TQ 92633 48765 (Point A) and runs in a north north easterly direction, thence in a northerly direction for 270 metres, where it enters the main complex of school buildings at NGR TQ 92696 49021 (Point B). The path then turns in a west north westerly direction for 13 metres, thence in a northerly direction for 24 metres and thence in a north westerly direction for 11 metres, where it exits the main complex of school buildings at NGR TQ 92677 49062 (Point C). The path then turns in a north north easterly direction for 64 metres to its connection for Egerton Road (C144) at NGR TQ 92705 49119 (Point D) and will add a new length of public footpath numbered AW366, which commences at NGR TQ 92633 48765 (Point A) and runs in a north north westerly direction for 5.5 metres. At this point the path passes through a 2 metre wide gap in the boundary fencing (Point H on the Order Plan). The path continues to run in north north westerly direction for 64 metres, where the path passes through another 2 metres wide gap in the boundary fencing (Point I on the Order Plan). The path continues to run in a north north westerly direction for a further 92 metres before passing through another 2 metre wide gap in the boundary fencing (Point J on the Order Plan). The path continues to run in a north north westerly direction for 6 metres where it passes onto a defunct access track at NGR TQ 92592 48928 (Point E). The path then turns to run in a north north easterly direction - along the defunct access track - for 114 metres to NGR TQ 92636 49032 (Point F), where it leaves the old access track, and thence in a northerly direction for 64 metres, where it passes through a 2 metres wide gap in the hedge - located on the school boundary - at NGR TQ 92639 49097 (Point X), then immediately crosses a sleeper bridge - over a drainage ditch - for a distance of 1.2 metres and thence continues for 1.5 metres to its connection with Egerton Road (C144) at a point 3.5 metres west of the schools access drive at NGR TQ 92640 49100 (Point G).

Please see Part II of the Order for details relating to widths.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Kent County Council, Public Rights of Way and Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there at the price of £5.

The Order comes into force on 11 February 2013, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 10 March 2013, make an application to the High Court.

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE BYWAY AT61

IN THE PARISH OF ROLVENDEN

BYWAY AT61
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Byway AT61 between its junction with Alder Lane at NGR TQ833,301 and its junction with Byway AT60 at NGR TQ833 307 from 4th March 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it may reopen sooner depending on completion of repair works.

The path is closed because sections of the path are waterlogged and impassable, and there is a likelihood of danger to the public.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Faye Faiers on 0845 3450210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH CW16

IN THE PARISH OF WHITSTABLE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH CW16
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath CW16, between Church Lane and Trade Winds from 4th March 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months. However it is expected that the path will reopen before April 2013.

The path will be closed because works are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via the pedestrian access from Church Lane to Thistle Drive, along Thistle Drive to Trade Winds, and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Louise Adams on 0845 3450210.

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZF5 (PART) FAVERSHAM
PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT

MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above named Order made on 21st December 2012 under Section 118 of the Highways Act 1980 will extinguish the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered ZF5 which commences at NGR TR 01721 61885 (Point A) and runs in a north easterly direction for 128 metres to NGR TR 01805 61978 (Point B) and thence in a north westerly direction for 57.5 metres to its connection with the unaffected section of Public Footpath ZF5 at NGR TR 01769 62024 (Point C). As shown on the Order Plan.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Sonia Coventry at the Kent County Council (address as below). (Tel: Sonia Coventry: 01622 221512) (email: sonia.coventry@kent.gov.uk) before 12th April 2013. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Insepctorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZF42 FAVERSHAM)
PUBLIC PATH CREATION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above named Order made on 21st December 2012 under Section 26 of the Highways Act 1980 will create a new length of public footpath numbered ZF42 which commences at its connection with public footpath ZF5 at NGR TR 01721 61887 (Point A) and runs in a north north easterly direction for 42 metres to NGR TR 01743 61922 (Point B). The path then turns and runs alongside the boundary wall of Faversham Reach in a north westerly direction for 29 metres to NGR TR 01724 61942 (Point C) and thence runs in a north north easterly direction - continuing to run alongside the boundary wall of Faversham Reach - for 92 metres to its connection with public footpath ZF5 at NGR TR 01769 62024 (Point D) As shown on the Order Plan.

Please see Part II of the Order for details relating to widths.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Sonia Coventry at the Kent County Council (address as below). (Tel: Sonia Coventry: 01622 221512) (email: sonia.coventry@kent.gov.uk) before 12th April 2013. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 10th March 2013**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

CHART ROAD, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chart Road, Ashford, on or after 11 March 2013 for up to 3 weeks.

The road will be closed from the vicinity of the railway bridge to the junction with Repton Manor Road.

The alternative route is via Chart Road, A292 Maidstone Road, Drovers Roundabout and A28 Templar Way, with westbound traffic continuing to the New Street roundabout to rejoin Chart Road, due to the one-way system.

Access remains for Repton Manor Road traffic at its junction with Maidstone Road.

LEACON LANE LAY-BY, A20 ASHFORD ROAD, CHARING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of sewer repair works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Leacon Lane Lay-by, A20 Ashford Road, Charing, on or after 11 March 2013 for up to 5 days, or until the works have been completed.

The lay-by will be closed at its southern junction with the A20 Ashford Road.

Access will remain via the other junction, which also includes access to Leacon Lane itself.

B2080 THE STREET, APPLEDORE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install traffic calming measures, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2080 The Street, Appledore, on or after 11 March 2013 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Military Road and Court Lodge Road.

There will be no direct access between Tenterden and the Romney Marsh using this route.

The alternative route is via The Street, Tenterden Road, Reading Street, Appledore Road, Woodchurch Road, Brook Street, B2067 Kenardington Road, Warehorne Road, The Street, Marsh Road, Ashford Road, A2070 Ashford Road to Brenzett Corner Roundabout, B2080 Rhee Wall Road and Station Road.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

BURSTED HILL, UPPER HARDRES (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage works to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bursted Hill, Upper Hardres, on or after 11 March 2013 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction of Pett Bottom Road for a distance of approximately 50 metres.

The alternative route is via Bursted Hill, Hardres Court Road, Tapleys Hill and Pett Bottom Road.

LOWER HERNE ROAD, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lower Herne Road, Herne Bay, on or after 25 March 2013 for up to 3 days, between 07:30 hours and 16:30 hours each day.

The road will be closed in phases between the junction with Bullockstone Road and the northern junction with Canterbury Road.

The alternative route is via Bullockstone Road, A291 Canterbury Road, Herne Street and Canterbury Road.

PROSPECT PLACE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of footway and carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Prospect Place, Canterbury, on or after 25 March 2013 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Nunnery Fields and Puckle Lane.

VARIOUS ROADS, BARHAM AREA, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Barham Area, Canterbury, on or after 11 March 2013 as shown below.

All closures are between 07:30 hours and 16:30 hours each day.

COLE HILL, BARHAM will be closed for its entire length (junctions with Covet Lane and Railway Hill)

11 March 2013 for up to 3 days

Alternative route via Covet Lane, Valley Road and Greenhills

THE STREET / CHURCH LANE, BARHAM (The Street and Church Lane will be closed for their entire length (between junctions with Gravel Castle Road and Valley Road)

12 March 2013 for up to 3 days

Alternative routes

Eastbound - Valley Road, Derringstone Hill, Derringstone Downs, Rabbit Hole and Church Lane

Westbound - Gravel Castle Road, Derringstone Hill, Derringstone Downs and Valley Road

OLD DOVER ROAD, BARHAM will be closed for its entire length (junction with Gravel Castle Road to the cul-de-sac section beyond Rectory Lane)

14 March 2013 for up to 2 days

Alternative route via Gravel Castle Road, Church Lane and Rectory Lane

WESTWOOD ROAD, KINGSTON will be closed between its junctions with Jesse's Hill and The Street.

14 March 2013 for up to 2 days

Alternative route via Westwood Road, Turks Hill and Marley Lane

COVET LANE, BARHAM will be closed for its entire length (junctions with Valley Road and Cole Hill)

16 March 2013 for 1 day

Westbound via Black Robin Lane, Bonny Bush Hill, The Street, Marley Lane and Turks Hill

Eastbound via Cole Hill, Greenhills and Valley Road

SOUTH BARHAM HILL, BARHAM / REDOAK LANE, ELHAM will be closed for its entire length (junctions with Derringstone Hill to Bladbean)

18 March 2013 for up to 3 days

Alternative route via Elham Valley Road, Canterbury Road and Straight Hill

MARLEY LANE, KINGSTON will be closed between Junctions with Jess Hill and The Street

20 March 2013 for up to 3 days

Alternative route via Marley Lane, Turks Hill, Covet Lane, Black Robin Lane, Valley Road and The Street

OUT ELMSTEAD LANE, BARHAM will be closed for its entire length - junctions with A2 Dover Road and Valley Road

21 March 2013 for up to 3 days

Alternative Routes via

Eastbound via Valley Road and Black Robin Lane

Westbound A2 Dover Road, Black Robin Lane and Valley Road

JERSEY LANE, PETHAM will be closed for its entire length - junctions with Town Road and Watery Lane

28 March 2013 for up to 1 day

Alternative route via Town Road and Watery Lane

PETT BOTTOM ROAD, BRIDGE will be closed for its length (between Junctions with Bridge Road and School Lane)

2 April 2013 for up to 3 days

Alternative Route via Bridge Road, Faussett Hill, Hardres Court Road and School Lane

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

A2026 HYTHE STREET (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Bridge testing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hythe Street, on or after 26th March 2013 for up to 1 night between the hours 22.00hr and 06.00hr or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed 25 metres either side of the bridge

The alternative route is via Hythe street A2026, Mill Pond Road, Temple Hill, Temple Hill Sqaure, St Vincents Road, The Brent A226, E Hill, Home Gardens and Hythe Street and vice versa.

VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD, DARENTH AND SOUTH DARENTH (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads in Dartford, Darenth and South Darenth as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 17th March 2013 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the event is planned to last 1 day between 09.00hrs - 12.00hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Road name: Darenth Road, Dartford
Extent: Southbound from David Lloyds Entrance
Diversion: No diversion required closure will be in place for 10 minutes

Road name: Powdermill Lane, Dartford
Extent: Between its junctions with Darenth Road and Warwick Way
Diversion: No diversion required closure will be in place for 10 minutes

Road name: Warwick Way, Dartford
Extent: Between its junctions with Powdermill Lane and Hawley Road
Diversion: No diversion required closure will be in place for 10 minutes

Road name: A225 Hawley Road, Darenth
Extent: Between its junctions with Warwick Way and Parsonage Lane
Diversion: No diversion required closure will be in place for 15 minutes

Road name: Parsonage Lane, Hawley/Darenth
Extent: Between its junctions with Hawley Road and Roman Villa Road.
Diversion: Signed Diversion route from Parsonage Lane roundabout to Darenth Hill roundabout (and vice versa) via Hawley Road, Princes Road and Green St Green Rd and the reverse
Road will be closed from 9.40 till 9.55

Road name: Darenth Hill, Darenth
Extent: Between its junctions Green Street Green Road.
Diversion: B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road
Road will be closed from 9.40 till 9.55

Road name: Roman Villa Road, Darenth
Extent: Between its junctions with Darenth Hill and Holmesdale Hill
Diversion: A225 Hawley Road and A225 Princes Road

Road name: Rabbits Road, South Darenth
Extent: Between its junctions with Shrubbery Road and Canada Farm Road
Diversion: Shrubbery Road, Holmesdale Hill, St Margarets Road and B260 Green Street Green Road

Road name: Gills Road, South Darenth
Extent: Between its junctions with Holmesdale Hill and B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion: B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road

Road name: Wilson Lane, South Darenth
Extent: Between its junctions with Gills Road and Rabbits Road
Diversion: B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road

Road name: Canada Farm Road, South Darenth
Extent: Between its junctions with Three Gates Road and B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion: Valley Road, Fawkham Road and B260 Green Street Green Road

Road name: St Margarets Road, Darenth ONE WAY from Homesdale Hill
Extent: To B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion: B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road

Road name: St Margarets Road, Darenth
Extent: closed at its junction with B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion: No diversion required closure will be in place for 10 minutes

Road name: Trolling Down Hill B260
Extent: Between its junctions with Roman Villa Road to B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion: via Princes Road, Lowfield Street, A225 Hawley Road, Parsonage Lane and Darenth Hill B260 Green Street Green Road.
Between 10.10 and 11.30

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the event, Les Witton Dartford 10KM

WEST CRESCENT ROAD, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the erection of scaffolding for a garage conversion, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on West Crescent Road, on or after 11th March 2013 for up to 21 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the rear of 21 Harmer street.

There will be no access for through traffic between rear of 21 Harmer Street and to the side of 10 Bernard Street. Access to adjacent properties at the rear Harmer Street are to be maintained

The alternative route is via West Crescent Road, Terrace Street, Harmer Street, and Milton Road

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

A257 CANTERBURY ROAD, WINGHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A257 Canterbury Road, Wingham, on or after 17 March 2013 as shown below.

Closures are planned for the Sundays of 10, 17 and 24 March 2013, between 09:00 hours and 18:00 hours each day.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Wingham Lane and High Street, with no through access between Canterbury and Sandwich using the A257.

The alternative route is via A257 Canterbury Road, Wingham Road, Canterbury Road, Littlebourne Road, St Martin's Hill, Longport, Lower Chantry Lane, A2050 New Dover Road, A2 Dover Road, B2046 and Adisham Road.

CHEQUER LANE, ASH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chequer Lane, Ash, on or after 14 March 2013 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with The Street and Chilton Field.

The alternative route is via The Street, Queen's Road, Cop Street Road and Chequer Lane.

DENTON LANE, DENTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow safe access to the overhead phone cable network using an elevated platform, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Denton Lane, Denton, on or after 12 March 2013 for up to 2 days, between 09:30 hours and 1530 hours each day.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via A260 The Street, Canterbury Road and Shelvin Lane.

MARSHBOROUGH ROAD, MARSHBOROUGH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Marshborough Road, Marshborough, Woodnesborough, on or after 12 March 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Rose Cottage.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways & Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Parsonage Farm Road and Beacon Hill Road.

The alternative route is via New Street, The Street, Guilton, A257 Ash Bypass, Sandwich Road, A258 Sandwich Bypass, Sandwich Road, The Street and Oak Hill to Marshborough Road.

MAYFIELD AVENUE, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mayfield Avenue, Dover, on or after 11 March 2013 for up to 1 day, between 08:30 hours and 16:30 hours.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Nightingale Road.

Waiting will be prohibited the northern side of Mayfield Avenue between number 8 and number 20, for the times shown above.

PENCESTER ROAD, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway surfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pencester Road, Dover, on or after 11 March 2013 for up to 5 nights, between 18:00 hrs and midnight each night.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via A256 Maison Dieu Road, Woolcomber Street, A20 Townwall Street and York Street.

A256 WHITFIELD HILL, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A256 Whitfield Hill, Dover, on or after 12 March 2013 for up to 1 day, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours.

The road will be closed between the junction with Kearsney Avenue and the Whitfield Roundabout.

The alternative routes are:

Westbound via A2 Whitfield Roundabout, A2 Trunk Road, Jubilee Way, A20 Townwall Street, York Street, A256 High Street, London Road, Crabble Hill and London Road.

From River via London Road, Crabble Hill, A256 Buckland Avenue, Barton Road, Frith Road, Maison Dieu Road, Woolcomber Street, A20 Townwall Street, A2 Jubilee Way and Whitfield Roundabout.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

FIRMINGERS ROAD, SHOREHAM, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the cleansing of a highway soakway to prevent local flooding, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Firmingers Road, Shoreham, Sevenoaks, on or after 25th March 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Well Hill Nursery. There will be no access for through traffic at this point.

The alternative route is via Well Hill, Rock Hill.

HARTLEY BOTTOM ROAD, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the Installation of a meter by South East water, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hartley Bottom Road, on or after 11th March 2013 for up to 5 Days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of Hartley Bottom Road and Longfield Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions

The alternative route is via Manor Road, onto Longfield road, Wrotham Road, Shipley Hill Road , Idleigh Court Road and Hartley Bottom Road.

NIGHTINGALE LANE, SUNDRIDGE, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT works access for pole replacement, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Nightingale Lane, Sundridge, Sevenoaks, on or after 11th March 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from outside Macherels Plain to the junction of Wheatsheaf Hill. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via B2042, Un-named Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a programme of carriageway patching works to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to restrict traffic on various roads in Sevenoaks, as shown below.

The Order will become effective on or after 1st March 2013 until the works have been completed.

The planned dates and times for each road closure or restriction are shown below.

Planned dates will be indicated by signage displayed on site 14 days in advance. Road closures and other restrictions will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers are in place. Each road indicated will need to be closed once for prepatching works (as per the schedule below) and a second time for the actual surface treatment works (Surface dressing or microsurfacing) later in the year (These dates will be advertised on information boards on each site, 14 days in advance of commencement).

Every effort will be made to keep to the schedule shown below. Some minor modifications may be made to dates and duration of works, to be advised once known.

Adverse weather conditions may prevent some works being carried out on the planned dates.

Roads that are missed will be re-scheduled, as advised locally and signposted on site.

WILSON LANE, HORTON KIRBY - closed between Rabbits Road and Gill's Road

1 March 2013 for 4 working days

Alternative route via Rabbits Road, Canada Farm Road, Green Street Green Road and Gill's Road

BUCKHURST LANE, COWDEN - closed between Cow Lane to Cowden Pound Road

4 March 2013 for 5 days

Alternative route via Cow Lane, Buckhurst and Cowden Pound Road

FORCE GREEN LANE, WESTERHAM - closed between A233 London Road and Pilgrims Way

4 March 2013 for 3 days

Alternative route via A233 London Road and Pilgrims Way

BIRCHIN CROSS ROAD, SHOREHAM - closed between Clarkes Green Road and Bower Lane

7 March 2013 for 3 working days

Alternative route is via Clarkes Green Road and Goodbury Road

SCALLOPS, SUNDRIDGE - closed between B2042 Ide Hill Road to Winkhurst Green Road

11 March 2013 for 4 days

Alternative route via Ide Hill Road, Chequers Hill, Tonbridge Road, Bore Place Road and Winkhurst Green Road

COTMANS ASH LANE, KEMSING - closed between Clarkes Green Road and Pilgrims Way

12 March 2013 for 4 days

Alternative route via Tinkerpot Lane, St Clere Hill Road, Knockmill Lane, Old Terry's Lodge Road and Pilgrims Way

HALE OAK ROAD, SEVENOAKS WEALD - closed between B2027 Tonbridge Road and Bowzell Road

19 March 2013 for 4 days

Alternative route via B2027 Tonbridge Road, Camp Hill, Coppings Road, Scabharbour Road, Long Barn Road and Windmill Road

SOUTH BROOK LANE, BRASTED - closed between Green Lane and Toy's Hill

19 March 2013 for 2 days

Alternative route via Green Lane and Toy's Hill

CHELSFIELD LANE, SHOREHAM - closed between Shacklands Road and Hewitt's Road

20 March 2013 for 3 days

Alternative route via Shacklands Road, A224 Orpington by-pass and Hewitt's Road

BLUEBERRY LANE, KNOCKHOLT - closed between Main Road and Pound Lane

25 March 2013 for 3 days

Alternative route via Main Road and Pound Lane

ST JULIANS ROAD, SEVENOAKS WEALD - closed between A225 London Road and Fawke Wood Road

2 April 2013 for 6 working days between 09:15hrs and 15:30hrs

Alternative Route via River Hill, B245 London Road (via Morley's Roundabout), Bank Lane, Carter's Hill and Fawke Wood Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, WEST KINGSDOWN (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)

TEMPORARY ORDER 2013 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads, West Kingsdown as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 31st March 2013, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 12 months; the event is planned to last as noted in the schedule. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Restriction:	Temporary One Way Order Eastbound from 06.00 - 22.00 hours.
Road Name:	Scratchers Lane, West Kingsdown.
Extent:	From its junction with A20 London Road/Gorse Hill to its junction with Three Gates Lane.
Diversion:	A20 London Road and Fawkham Road. Traffic lights will also be placed at the junction of A20 London Road and Gorse Hill that will be manually controlled between 06.00 - 22.00 hours to assist vehicles leaving Brands Hatch Race Circuit.
Restriction:	30mph Speed Limit from 06.00 - 22.00 hours.
Road Name:	A20 London Road/Gorse Hill, West Kingsdown.
Extent:	Between W J Kings Garage London Road, Farningham and Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station, West Kingsdown.
Restriction:	Suspend Cycle Lane Order from 06.00 - 22.00 hours.
Road Name:	A20 London Road/ Gorse Hill, West Kingsdown.
Extent 1:	Between Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station and Scratchers Lane.
Extent 2:	Between Scratchers Lane and Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station.
Diversion:	Cyclists should dismount and walk along the pavement for the length of the restriction.
Restriction:	No Right Turn from 06.00 - 22.00 hours. **1:** Into Donkey Lane southbound from A20 London Road/Gorse Hill. **2:** Out of Donkey Lane onto A20 London Road/Gorse Hill.
Dates:	31st March, 7th April,, 21th April, 19TH May,21sts July, 13th 20th October and 3rd November 2013

The purpose of the restrictions is to facilitate safety to road users and members of the public.

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

BELLEVUE STREET, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of junction improvement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bellevue Street, Folkestone, on or after 11 March 2013 for up to 5 days, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junction with Dover Road and the entrance to the Health Centre Car Park.

The alternative route is via A2033 Dover Road, St John's Street and Clarence Street.

A2033 DOVER ROAD & GRACE HILL, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on part of the A2033 Dover Road and Grace Hill, Folkestone, on or after 13 March 2013 for up to one night, between 20:00 hours through until 05:00 hours

The road will be closed between the junction with A260 Tontine Street and A2033 Shellons Street roundabout.

The alternative route is via A2033 Dover Road, A260 Dover Road, Hill Road, A259 Canterbury Road, Black Bull Road, Radnor Park Road, A2034 Cheriton Road and Foresters Way.

A259 HIGH STREET, NEW ROMNEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A259 High Street, New Romney, on or after 14 March 2013 for up to 4 nights, as shown below.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Church Road and Station Road.

Closures are planned for Thursday 14 March & Friday 15 March and Monday 18 March & Tuesday 19 March 2013, between 19:00 hours through until 05:00 hours each night, with the road otherwise re-opened.

The alternative route is via B2071 Station Road, Littlestone Road, Marine Parade, Grand Parade Coast Drive, The Parade, Battery Road, Dungeness Road, Harden Road, B2075 Romney Road and A259 Lydd Road.

The One-way Traffic Orders in respect of Church Approach and Tritton Lane will be suspended to allow access.

Waiting will be prohibited at all times on any sections of High Street, New Romney that are indicated by signage and No Waiting cones, during the times of the road closures stated above.

NORTH LYMINGE LANE, LYMINGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of sewer repair works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on North Lyminge Lane, Lyminge, on or after 11 March 2013 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at various points along its length.

The planned closure times are between 09:00 hours and 16:30 hours each day, Mondays to Saturdays.

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac. Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever this is safe.

ST MARY'S ROAD, ELHAM & BOSSINGHAM ROAD, STELLING MINNIS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Mary's Road, Elham and on Bossingham Road, Stelling Minnis, on or after 13 March 2013 as shown below.

Additional closures may be required for each site within 14 days from the completion of surfacing, to allow for re-alignment of covers in the carriageway.

ST MARY'S ROAD, ELHAM will be closed between High Street and The Square, planned for 13 March for 1 day, between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours

An additional closure may be required for a further day

The alternative route is via New Road, Vicarage Lane and Pound Lane

BOSSINGHAM ROAD, STELLING MINNIS will be closed from the school to Cherry Gardens Farm, planned for 13 March for 2 days, between 09:00 hours and 15:00 hours each day

Additional closure required for a further 2 days

The alternative route is via Curtis Lane, B2068, Stone Street and Lime Kiln Lane

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways & Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

HIGH STREET, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage improvements in connection with Ramsgate Leisure Centre, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, Ramsgate, on or after 11 March 2013 for up to 4 weeks, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the Leisure Centre and the junction with Paradise.

The alternative route is via South Eastern Road, A255 Park Road and Chatham Street.

B2051 MARINE DRIVE & THE PARADE, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2051 Marine Drive and The Parade, Margate, on or after 25 March 2013 for up to 5 nights, as shown below.

Closures are planned for the nights of 25, 26, 27 & 28 March and 2 April 2013, between 19:00 hours through until 04:00 hours each night.

The road will be closed from the junction with A28 Marine Terrace to the junction with Fort Road.

The alternative route for through traffic is via B2055 Marine Gardens, Queen Street, Cecil Square, Hawley Street, Trinity Hill, Trinity Square, Zion Place, Fort Crescent and Fort Hill.

There will be managed south-bound access beyond King Street for residents and businesses to reach High Street, Market Street, The Parade (the one-way section fronting shops) and Duke Street.

Traffic will be able to exit King Street north-bound only

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

ALLENS LANE, PLAXTOL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to access BT poles and overhead cabling, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Allens Lane, Plaxtol, on or after 14 March 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Brook Lane to outside Allens Farm.

The alternative route is via Allens Lane, Long Mill Lane, Brook Lane.

BIRLING ROAD, LEYBOURNE, TONBRIDGE & MALLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace bridge parapets and safety barriers, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Birling Road, Leybourne, Tonbridge & Malling, on or after 11/19/27 March 2013 for a period of up to 1 night between 20.00hrs and 06.00hrs, from 20.00 hrs 15 March 2013 to 06.00hrs 18 March 2013 and from 20.00hrs 22 March 2013 to 06.00hrs 25 March 2013 or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the M20 over bridge.

The alternative route is via Bull Road, Ryarsh Road, Birling Road, The Street, Roughetts Road, A20 London Road, Birling Road.

RYARSH LANE, WEST MALLING (PROHIBITION OF PARKING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a sewer lining, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting parking on Ryarsh Lane, West Malling, on or after 25 March 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The parking will be prohibited at the junction with King Street.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

CORNFORD LANE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace BT telegraph poles and cabling and to install a new kerb line and patch the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cornford Lane, Tunbridge Wells, on or after 12 March 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The whole length of the road will be closed.

The alternative route is via Halls Hole Road, A264 Pembury Road, High Street.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 10th March 2013

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways & Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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BOXING

A-BOUT TURN: DeGale to fight Alexander Brand

Colombian steps in for DeGale fight

JAMES DeGale MBE will take on Alexander Brand at Bluewater later this month instead of Pablo Oscar Natalio Farias, as first planned.

The 2008 Olympic gold-medallist was originally pencilled in to fight Farias at the Glow complex on Saturday, March 23, but will now take on the Colombian Brand at the same venue on the same date after complications forced a change of plans for the defence of his WBC Silver super middleweight title.

The former WBC Latino champion from Bogota is ranked number 10 by the WBC. He is also the longest-tenured fighter in the history of the Colombian Olympic team and boasts an amateur record of only 20 losses in 437 fights.

DeGale's promoter Micky Hennessy said: "To cover ourselves opponent-wise, my agent in North America has been talking to Team Brand for the last few weeks and we're delighted we have now got a top-10 fighter for James to prove once again that he is a top world-class fighter on his march to world honours.

"Brand is a world-class boxer that not only had a brilliant amateur career but also holds a professional record of 19-1," said DeGale.

"But that could have been 20-0 as his only loss was a split decision over eight rounds, and I know the feeling losing on a split decision.

"Once I've got past this Colombian puncher, who has 15 knockouts in his 20 fights, I will sit down with Mick [Hennessy] and look to the big fights later this year, maybe against the winner of Kessler and Froch or a rematch against Groves before going after Andre Ward."

Supporting DeGale at Glow will be the son of the legendary Chris Eubank, middleweight sensation Chris Eubank Jnr, who will be taking part in his 10th professional bout.

CRICKET

Adams feels his young guns can shoot for title

Kent coach Jimmy Adams talks to **Greg Miles** about his new deal and how the county's promising youngsters can take them to the next level

JIMMY Adams says that he had little hesitation in adding another year to his contract at the St Lawrence Ground.

The 45-year-old's agreement was set to expire at the end of the forthcoming season, but he now has a deal until the end of the 2014 campaign.

Adams oversaw a promising first season in charge last year, with a rebuilt squad blending experience and Kent academy prospects, which was a key reason for his extension.

"In early December they asked me if there was a possibility of putting an extra season on the contract," he said.

"I got back to them first thing in January and that was it.

"I'm looking forward to working with an exciting group of players. I had a tremendous experience last year, so once the offer was made there wasn't much hesitation from me."

The former West Indies captain has, in the same week as signing his new deal, added former Somerset all-rounder Calum Haggett to the squad. The 22-year-old spent the final few months of last season with Kent's second XI and did enough to earn a deal.

"He had a really good year last year and put in some good performances. He's very talented, has a good attitude and is somebody I am looking forward to seeing grow," said Adams.

"Calum played a lot of second-team games last year. I didn't see all of the games, but the reports were consistently good. We were very pleased with what he did when he was here.

"We have got six weeks where everybody will put their best foot forward."

Aside from the arrival of Haggett, it looks unlikely that there will be other new signings before the start of April as Adams is keen to continue the development of younger players in the squad.

Last year, Sam Billings, Sam Northeast, Adam Ball, Daniel Bell-Drummond, Adam Riley and Matt Coles all played a part in first-team affairs, and that looks set to be the case this season.

"We're tying to develop players. We want to build around that core group and, depending on spaces available, make sure young players get an opportunity," said Adams.

Picture: ADY KERRY

YOUNG OUTLOOK: Kent coach Jimmy Adams is keen to develop the county's crop of young players

"I saw enough to suggest that we have a group of players who are capable of winning titles.

"Until they show me otherwise, and the young kids prove they are not up to it, which they've not done yet, I will go down that route.

"The club are in agreement they also want to see young players progressing through as part of how we build going forward.

"I don't say it casually – I think we do have young players with promise and they're getting to the point where the only thing left for them is to sink or swim.

"If you have an academy and you're not keen to go that last step with the players, it's a waste of resources up until that point. You have to sit down as an entity and decide a way forward. I'm quite happy with where we are. At the start of the season there is a case of 'It's yours, brothers, make the best of it'.

"This is the opportunity – go for it."

The county still hold an option over all-rounder Azhar Mahmood for T20 competition, should he decide to play in England this season.

"We're still in discussions with Azhar and his representatives," said Adams.

"The door has definitely not been closed."

Talks are also still ongoing about West Indies batsman Brendan Nash becoming a 'Kolpak' player for the forthcoming season, meaning the county could then recruit, if they so wished, another overseas player.

SPORTS SHORTS

FOOTBALL

Fulham recall winger from Gills loan spell

WINGER Ryan Williams has been recalled from his loan spell at League Two Gillingham by Premier League club Fulham.

The 19-year-old signed on loan at Priestfield in February, with the intention of getting some first team football, but has departed without making an appearance.

The Australian's only game came with the development team in a win against Dagenham and Redbridge, but he was on the substitutes' bench for the league fixtures against the Dagenham, Chesterfield, Oxford and Aldershot.

Fellow loanee, Newcastle United midfielder Michael Richardson, has also yet to make an appearance for the Gills.

MOTORSPORT

Motorbase unveil new sponsorship partners

BRITISH Touring Car team Motorbase Performance will compete as Airwaves Racing in the forthcoming season as part of a new sponsorship deal.

Motorbase – who recently announced Mat Jackson, Aron Smith and Liam Griffin would be returning to the Kent team's set-up – have also retained last year's title sponsors Redstone in addition to Truphone and Addison Lee.

Jackson and Smith will compete in the new in-house-built Mountune-powered NGTC Ford Focus STs this season, which is expected to put Motorbase in a title-challenging position.

The first round of the BTCC takes place at Brands Hatch on the weekend of March 30-31.

ATHLETICS

Overall sets blistering time at half-marathon

SCOTT Overall continued his build-up for the London Marathon with an impressive win at the Silverstone Half Marathon.

The Blackheath and Bromley athlete won, literally, by a mile as he finished seven minutes clear of the runner-up in a time of 65 minutes, 41 seconds.

At the end of February, the 30-year-old ran in America, where he claimed a respectable seventh in the New Orleans Rock'n'Roll Half Marathon.

He became one of the first athletes to book his place at the London Olympics last summer, which ultimately ended in disappointment as he finished a lowly 61st in the marathon.

FOOTBALL

East heads south in loan move from Hull

GILLINGHAM have signed Danny East on loan from Hull City to provide defensive cover.

East, who can play in both full-back positions and in midfield, will be at Priestfield for the remainder of the season. The 21-year-old has made one appearance for Hull, that coming in the FA Cup last season.

He began the season on loan at Northampton Town, playing 21 times for the Cobblers in all competitions until December. He came off the bench in the second half at the Sixfields Stadium when the Gills triumphed 2-1 in October.

"He's a character, a winner – he's tenacious, bombs forward, he's a good athlete and he will be good for us," said Gills manager Martin Allen.

FOOTBALL

Wells set sights on the bigger picture in midst of FA Vase run

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

TUNBRIDGE Wells are just 180 minutes from playing for the FA Vase at Wembley, but the Kent League club has a much bigger prize in its sights.

Wells wrote another chapter into their history last weekend as Andy Irvine struck twice in the 2-0 win over Suffolk side Hadleigh United to book their place into the two-legged semi-finals.

It takes them a step closer to replicating Deal Town's famous triumph in 2000, when Tommy Sampson's men beat Chippenham Town 1-0 in the capital.

However, Wells chairman Joe Croker insists no one is yet dreaming of gracing the home of football and is instead hoping to take advantage of the "phenomenal potential" the club have on the back of their cup run. The quarter-final crowd of 1,180 is all the evidence that is needed of the potential of which Croker talks.

Martin Larkin's side have also averaged an impressive gate of 167, which is already bigger than most of those in the league above, the Ryman One South.

"We are already by far the best-supported club in the Kent League," he said. "When, and if, we get to the Ryman League, it could be even bigger – the potential is phenomenal.

"Our attendances have gone up an awful lot in the last few years. We have made a very conscious effort to make it into a family club."

You might think reaching the semi-finals would have boosted their coffers, and you would be right – if they did not have to split the travel expenses with Newcastle-based Dunston UTS for their twice-cancelled fifth-round match, with their visitors having to cancel hotel bookings and rearrange travel. It left Wells out of pocket, even after gate receipts and prize money.

The run has put the club's bank balance back on an even keel, however, with £10,700 earned so far through prize money.

They have also missed a lot of home games due to bad weather and their cup exploits, having played just six league games since October.

There is another £5,000 up for grabs if they win their semi-final, while they will net £15,000 if they win the competition and £7,000 if they lose at Wembley.

While it helps, it is a relatively small figure compared with what Croker has in mind for the redevelopment of the ground, details of which he would not divulge. "We're going to do a whole major improvement of the ground. These things take years," he said.

"Everyone deserves a lot of credit – the players, the management and the fans, everyone associated with the club."

Although their Culverden home can hold more than 3,000, it is thought that they will have to limit their semi-final tie to about 2,000 for safety reasons.

"I know we will be able to get 2,000 people in there," said Croker.

"What I expect might happen is that we will have to put up temporary stands.

"The capacity is 3,000, but we would never allow that into the ground. We will be having some very serious discussions with the FA."

He added: "There's still a long way to go. We all know that, but we're very pleased to have got this far."

Pictures: KFA/NICK DUNGAN

SUCCESS: Wells chairman Joe Croker, left, is keen to emulate Deal Town's 2000 Wembley joy, right

TUNBRIDGE WELLS ROAD TO FA VASE SUCCESS?

Second round	**Tunbridge Wells 2**-0 Wantage
Third round	Binfield 1-**2 Tunbridge Wells**
Fourth round	**Tunbridge Wells 1**-0 Dunston UTS
Fifth round	Larkhall Athletic 3-**4 Tunbridge Wells** (AET)
Quarter-final	**Tunbridge Wells 2**-0 Hadleigh United
Semi-final first leg	**Tunbridge Wells** v Ascot United or Shildon, March 23
Semi-final second leg	Ascot United or Shildon v **Tunbridge Wells**, March 30

FOOTBALL

CEO Egan resigns following 'terrible' year off the pitch

FORMER Margate chief executive Cliff Egan feels it would have been hypocritical for him not to quit his role at Hartsdown Park.

Egan resigned earlier this week, feeling he had to after a "terrible year" off the pitch for the Ryman Premier club. In November the club lost their main sponsor Construct Stadia after they were liquidated, and in January manager Chris Kinnear left to join Dover Athletic.

However, Egan, who was in the CEO role at Gate for the last four years, is keen to stay on as commercial manager.

He said: "I have been thinking about it for a few weeks. It has been a terrible year.

"At the end of the day the responsibility falls down to me. We have lost two sponsors – the main one we haven't been able to replace this year. Sometimes a bit of fresh blood coming in can give it [the club] a bit of impetus. You see the same with football managers.

"I just felt it would have been hypocritical [to stay on]. As a football club we have, and will, dismiss managers over results."

Egan first started at the club in the 1990s before successful spells working on the commercial operations of Stoke City and Wolves before returning to Gate in 2009.

He also runs his own business, which, combined with his role as Margate CEO, began to take its toll.

"I had a grandson born a year ago and I have seen him twice since then – and he doesn't live that far away," he said.

"This is the first day I have had off for goodness knows how long. It affects you. They haven't invented 27 hours in a day yet."

TOUGH: Gate have lost sponsors and manager

Gills team of the Century

This season marks the 100th anniversary of the Gills being known as Gillingham, having originally being founded as New Brompton. We are celebrating those we think deserve a place in the team of the century.

TERRY COCHRANE

Date of birth: January 22, 1953
Gills stats: 107 appearances, 17 goals
Clubs: Coleraine, Middlesbrough, Burnley, Gills, Millwall, Hartlepool

TERRY Cochrane cemented his place in Gillingham folklore for three memorable years at Priestfield in the 1980s.

The Northern Ireland international arrived in Kent in October 1983 after five years at Middlesbrough, where he made himself a fans' favourite for his silky skills, as he would do at the Gills.

Cochrane started his career in his home country, making his name at Coleraine before leaving for Burnley in 1976. He helped the Clarets stay in Division Two and also earned the first of his 26 caps in 1975.

His move to 'Boro, for a then-club record £233,000 in 1978, was also a record for a Northern Irish player at the time.

As part of Keith Peacock's Division Three Gills side, he was responsible for providing the ammunition for the formidable forward line of Tony Cascarino and Dave Shearer while also proving a crowd-pleaser with his entertaining style.

Cochrane was no stranger to stunning goals, having written himself into the opening credits of Match Of The Day in 1981/82 while at Boro with an overhead kick from the edge of the area in an FA Cup win over Swansea the previous season.

However, he arguably went one better with the Gills when Bristol Rovers came to Priestfield on December 29, 1984.

The hapless Pirates keeper skewed a clearance to the halfway line, where Cochrane collected and fired back after a touch into the top corner.

He left the Gills in 1986 for America but failed to make an appearance for Dallas Sidekicks. There followed spells at Milwall and Hartlepool, where he became manager of the ladies team.

Cochrane now coaches in the community back in Middlesbrough.

■ **So, do you agree?** Send in your opinions on our choice or who you think would have been a better option. Email **greg.miles@archant.co.uk** or write to **Sport, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth TN25 6SR**

Team sheet
1) Ron Hillyard
2) Steve Bruce
3) Chris Hope
4) Charlie Marks
5) Dennis Hunt
6) Andy Hessenthaler
7) Dick Tydeman
8) Terry Cochrane
9) ???????
10) ???????
11) ???????

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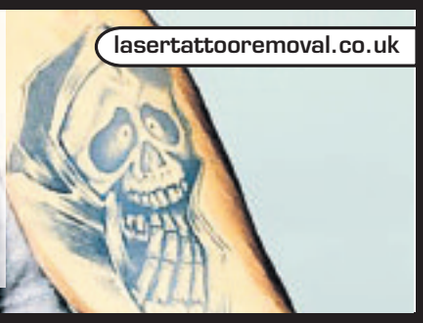

Celebrating 10 years

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